

Just CrossStitch 1999 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

Crosscut 1999 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

Christmas Ornaments

75

Leading Cross-Stitch Designers

- ❖ Diane Arthurs
- ❖ Bent Creek
- ❖ Emie Bishop
- ❖ Cecilia Turner
- ❖ Shepherd's Bush
- ❖ Lizzie Kate
- ❖ Sharon Cohen

**and
More!**



Holiday 1999 US \$5.95 CN \$6.95



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Deck the halls and decorate the trees—Christmas will soon be here! Cross-stitched ornaments are destined to become cherished heirlooms when lovingly made. Add to your own collection of decorations or expand a loved one's collection by stitching any or all of the special ornament designs featured in this issue. Charts, color codes, stitch illustrations, and finishing instructions appear alphabetically by design company for easy reference. Each of the 75 contributing needleartists also shares personal holiday traditions, including favorite photographs, enticing recipes, or treasured remembrances, along with best wishes for a joyful and memorable yuletide season filled with many hours of stitching pleasure.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Della Robia Wreath
Serendipity Designs | 5. Christmas Jewels
The Victoria Sampler |
| 2. A White Christmas Tree
Needlecrafts Unlimited Co. | 6. Persian Holiday
Sue Lentz Needlework |
| 3. A Stained Glass Noël
Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches | 7. Holiday Keepsake
Bellpull
Dragon Dreams |
| 4. Crown Him Lord
Sheepish Designs | |



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

These cheerful ornaments possess an honest, home-made charm that speaks of America's pioneer spirit. Though the year is 1999, these designs harken back to a time when most decorations were made by hand. Like the antique baskets that hold them, the various designs in this collection reflect both beauty and utility. To create an especially meaningful Christmas tree, stitch these lovely ornaments and include them along with other custom-made objects of sentimental value. The old-fashioned appeal of these newly designed ornaments will present an enchanting look that is timeless.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Starshine
Heart In Hand Needleart | 5. Watercolour Mitten
Sekas & Co. |
| 2. "Tis the Season..." Teeny Tiny Needleroll
DKT Originals | 6. Christmas Eve
Elizabeth's Designs |
| 3. Christmas Village
Threads Through Time | 7. Home for Christmas
Marry Garry's Sewing Cabin |
| 4. Itty Bitty Joy
Twisted Threads | |

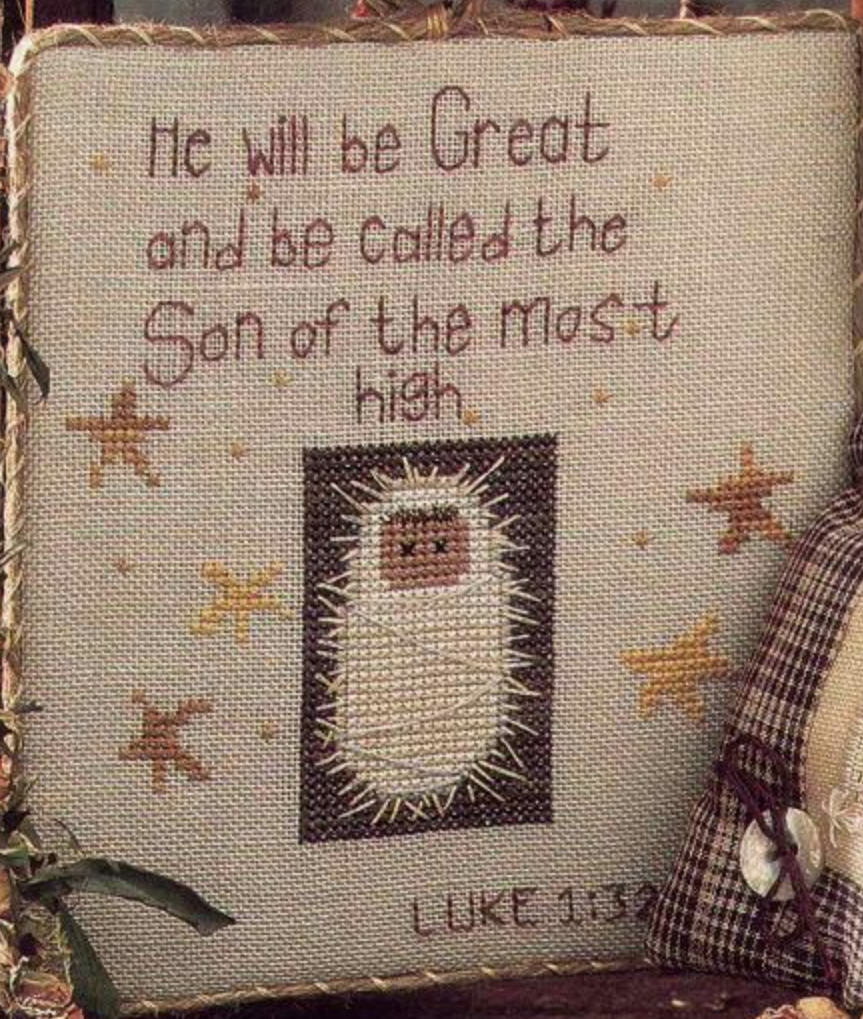


1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Sugar and spice are not required to make this ornament grouping nice. In their sweet simplicity, each of these designs offers a little spice in its own way. Some have words with timely thoughts presented in creative ways. One ornament's simple red-and-green octagonal design contrasts beautifully with a light-colored background. A petite sampler makes an impressive ornament, and the pretty maid on the "8 Maids A-Milking" ornament instantly brings to mind the rest of that fun song. Use these ornaments as your ingredients for putting together a Christmas tree that is sure to please almost any taste.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Christmas Star
Sisters and Best Friends | 5. Merry Millennium
La Broderie |
| 2. Eight Maids A-Milking
Needle Maid Designs, Inc. | 6. Christmas Ornament Fob
Hollie Designs |
| 3. Holly Christmas
Suzann's Designs | 7. Millennium Memory
(1000 Stitches)
Jemini Designs |
| 4. Dawn of the Millennium
Douglas Designs | |



1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

For a change of pace this year, showcase a group of favorite ornaments in a unique piece of furniture, such as this old cabinet, and surround the stitched decorations with greenery or dried flowers. Diminutive teapots, antique candlesticks, and other home accessories can also be displayed effectively along with the stitchery. Select needlework designs that are color-compatible with the wood tones of the cabinet to bring a sense of harmony to the modern-day home. By combining traditional sampler motifs with stylized versions of baby Jesus in the manger, a lovely, eclectic collection of ornaments can be easily achieved that will be enjoyed by all.



1. Christmas Welcome
The Needle's Work

2. Christ Child
Fanci That Patterns, Inc.

3. Love Was Born
Lizzie*Kate

4. Tudor Rose Ornament
The Nostalgic Needle

5. Patchwork Square
The Nutmeg Needle

6. Christmas Basket Ornament
Theron Traditions/
The Gentle Art

7. Christmas Heart
Calico Crossroads



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

With touches of ribbon, lace, buttons, or beads, the ornaments in this set characterize a delicate, nostalgic sensibility. For those who love intricate designs, any of these ornaments are a good choice. Select a cute, perky angel; an elegant lady angel or a softly feminine one; or perhaps, an angelic teddy bear. Those who collect nativity scenes will want to stitch the tiny crèche recessed within a silvery, scalloped tin. Use these designs to decorate a special tree in the guest bedroom or string them along a mantle in a favorite cozy room. During a season that is chilly, may these ornaments warm your heart.



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Lesa's Mini Bellpull Ornament
LS Designs | 5. Merry Christmas Angel
Victoria's Needle |
| 2. Cherished Teddies™
"Every Time A Bell Rings..."
Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc. | 6. Marty Links Kidlinks™
Angel
Heritage Series |
| 3. Teenie Christmas Angel
for 1999
The Sweetheart Tree™ | 7. Peace "Mini" Stockings
Designs From Margaret Lee |
| 4. Joyful Adoration
Cross My Heart, Inc. | |

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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Viewing these Christmas ornaments, all will be reminded that Santa Claus is coming to town! The decorations in this grouping range from whimsical folk-art depictions of old Saint Nick to the traditional image of Father Christmas. Included in the collection are a realistic chocolate-chip-cookie ornament and a Christmas-cookie ornament pillow with a cookie cutter charm. Decorating a tree with one or all of these endearing designs, you are sure to delight not just the jolly old soul of Saint Nicholas, but of everyone else as well. For friends who collect Santas, any of these ornaments will make a perfect gift.



1. Pelz Nichol—Santa in Fur
Carol Emmer Designs

2. Xmas Cookies
Charland Designs Inc.

3. Lighting the Way Santa
The Artists Collection/
Heartstrings

4. Santa's Little Goodie Bag
Mosey 'N Me

5. 1999 Christmas Ornament
The Vermillion Stitchery

6. A Cookie for Santa
Hillside Samplings

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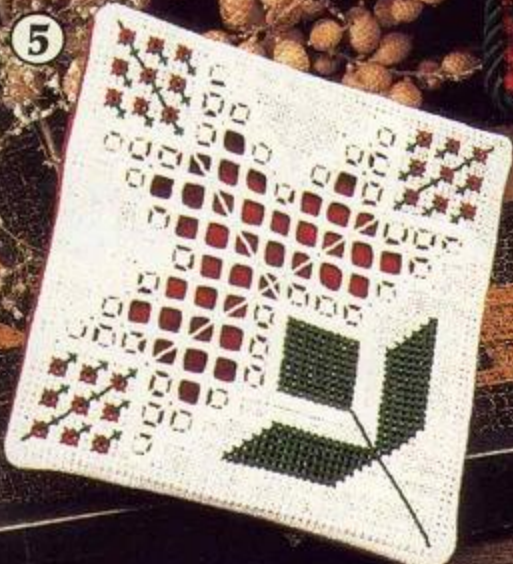
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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Subtle and sophisticated, these ornaments look as though they might be aged family heirlooms. A folkish charm merged with elegant colors and fine finishing techniques, the ornaments in this group are as pretty on an old tallow-berry wreath as they will be on a fine blue spruce tree. Stitch one or all of these beautiful pieces for your home and express glad tidings in a most elegant way. Even Santa Claus will be enticed to pick up needle and thread once he spies these lovely designs cleverly tucked into an evergreen wreath or arranged amid a large basket of pinecones.



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1. **Christmas Stars**
Handwork

2. **The Starry Wreath**
Bent Creek, Inc.

3. **My Little Christmas Gift**
Little By Little Design Co.

4. **Peaceful Retreat**
Something In Common

5. **Christmas Lily**
Cross 'N Patch

6. **Christmas Sachet**
Thirteenth Colony

7. **Sharing the Season**
From Merry's Heart



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

And all through the house, the only things that were stirring were reindeer, a polar bear, an owl, a red bird, a cat, and yes, even a mouse. These unique animal ornaments would stir all but the most indifferent guests to feel holiday cheer. From whimsical to realistic, these designs represent the artistic beauty and wonder of animals. Stitch one of these decorations for an outdoorsman in your family and perhaps tie the project onto a gift as a package embellishment, or work an ornament to hang on your tree in honor of a favorite family pet.



1. Christmas Bird

Birds of a Feather

2. ... Not Even a Mouse

Crossed Wing Collection

3. A Critter's Christmas

The Workbasket

4. One Starry Night

The Stitcher's Habit

5. Reindeer

The Heart's Content, Inc.

6. A Mousy Christmas

Graphworks International, Inc.

7. Chessie's Tree

Chessie & Me

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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Whimsical, fun, and just plain cute, these decorations have all the elements for a terrific holiday. Sporting wide smiles, the snowmen (and one snow moose) on the ornaments seem to invite all to enjoy Christmas with a jolly spirit. The sled with its big red bow seems to issue another invitation for holiday fun. These charming designs will chase winter's chill from their admirers and have them humming a holiday tune in no time at all. Stitch one or all of the ornaments for your tree—or for a special Christmas-time greeting, hang them on a wreath near an entryway.



1. Snow Moose Christmas Ornament

The Stitchworks, Ltd.

2. Snow Fun

Imaginating, Inc.

3. Baby Snowman Trio

In Splendid Detail, Ltd.

4. It's Christmas Time

Poppy Kreations

5. Bearing Wreath Snowman

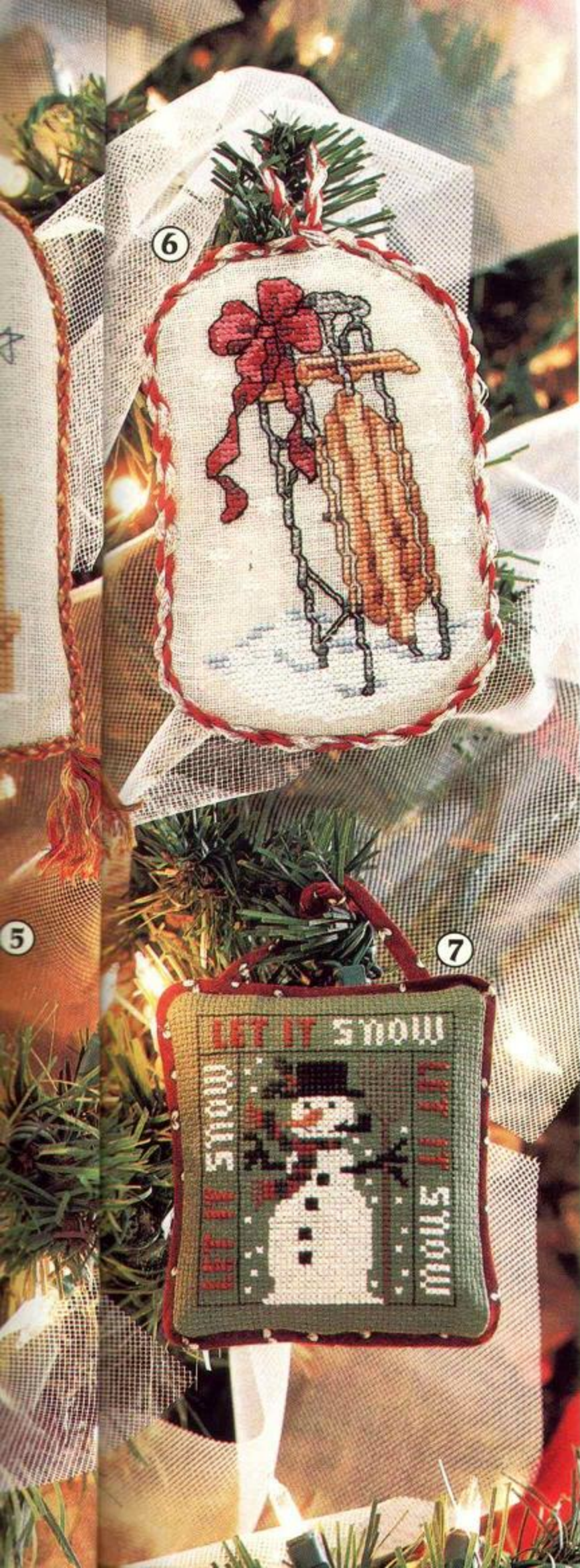
Homespun Elegance Ltd.

6. Holiday Sled

Ursula Michael Designs

7. Let It Snow-Man

The Prairie Schooler



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Which ornament from this pretty collection of yuletide designs will you choose to stitch? Will it be the elegant hardanger snowflake, the lovely rose stocking, the detailed holly branch, or perhaps the tongue-in-cheek “No L” Sampler ornament? Appropriate to hang in cottage or castle year-round or only for the holidays, any of these ornaments will brighten the darkest corner or add sparkle to the tiniest tree. Select just one of these decorations to stitch as a special gift for a dear friend or relative, or indulge yourself and stitch every single one of them!



1. **The “No L” Sampler**
The Sampler House

2. **Hardanger Ornament**
Nordic Needle, Inc.

3. **Christmas Heart**
Lorri Birmingham Designs

4. **Poinsettia Sampler**
Claire Hatten Designs

5. **English Holly**
The Lilac Studio

6. **Christmas Sleigh**
JBW Designs

7. **Memory Stocking**
Just Nan, Inc.



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1999 Christmas *Ornaments* COLLECTION

Uniquely made, this varied group of ornaments offers unique options for decorating. A poinsettia crystal-box topper, twin perforated-paper-on-clay-tile designs, and a small Christmas bellpull are just a few of the attractive ornaments grouped on this shelf. The same ornaments would work equally well creatively displayed on other pieces of furniture. Each ornament, however, is interesting enough to stand alone, either as part of a centerpiece or maybe as a drawer hang on your favorite chest of drawers. From pineapple to pine tree, these designs will be a welcome sight in any space they decorate.



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A Celtic Christmas
(Red Poinsettia)
Moss Creek Designs, Inc. | 5. 1999 Christmas
Snowflake Ornament
Simply Stephanie |
| 2. 1999 Christmas Snowflake
Ornament (Beaded)
Simply Stephanie | 6. Christmas from Virginia
For Stitchers' Sake |
| 3. Noel
Shepherd's Bush Printworks | 7. A Celtic Christmas
(Pink Poinsettia)
Moss Creek Designs, Inc. |
| 4. Christmas Pines
Earth Threads | 8. Miniature Bellpull
Ornament
The Drawn Thread |

The Artists Collection/HeartStrings

Pat Thode

LIGHTING THE WAY SANTA

Designed by Pat Thode of
The Artists Collection/HeartStrings



At the time that this article had to be written, a terrible tragedy had just happened in Littleton, Colorado. Gail Beets of The Artists Collection in Littleton has a son, Christopher, who was a senior at Columbine High School in the spring of this year. I think that this is a Christmas to hold dear those we love and to count our blessings. It seems even more important this year than ever. Shop 'til you drop, bake (and eat) cookies by the dozen, find just the right Christmas tree, but more importantly, find time for family and friends. We all lead busy lives, and sometimes it is hard to do everything we want to. I know that I, for one, will not worry as much about how the house looks this holiday season but more about doing things with my granddaughters and taking the time to rethink just what is truly important. I hope you all have a joyous Christmas and a happy 2000. Peace.

DMC	Anchor®	
223	895	pink, med.
304	19	red, med.
433	358	brown, med.
500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.
501	878	blue-green, dk.
729	890	old gold, med.
738	361	tan, vy. lt.
815	44	garnet, med.
951	1010	flesh, vy. lt.
3773	1008	flesh, med.
blanc	2	white
bs 310	403	black

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

■ 005 black

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads
● 42013 red red

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
◎ 00557 gold

Mill Hill Glass Treasures
12167 matte light topaz star (2)

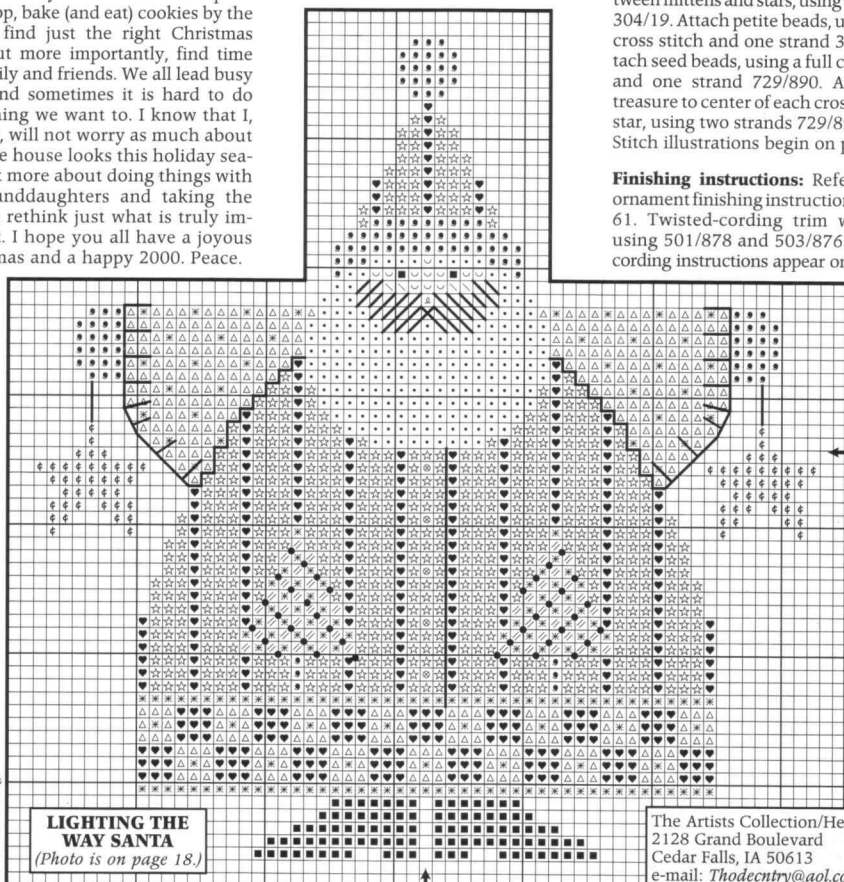
Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece 28-count star sapphire linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 64H x 61W

Design size: 4 5/8" x 4 3/8" (12cm x 11cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. Backstitch using one strand 310/403. Work long stitch for moustache, using three strands blanc/2. Work long stitch for lines between mittens and stars, using one strand 304/19. Attach petite beads, using a half cross stitch and one strand 304/19. Attach seed beads, using a full cross stitch and one strand 729/890. Attach one treasure to center of each cross-stitched star, using two strands 729/890. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 501/878 and 503/876. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.



LIGHTING THE WAY SANTA
(Photo is on page 18.)

The Artists Collection/HeartStrings
2128 Grand Boulevard
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
e-mail: Thodecntry@aol.com

Bent Creek, Inc.

Elizabeth Newlin
and Marsha Worley

Like most children, we always wished for a "White Christmas." Our holiday celebrations were always very special; but it seemed that a blanket of white, sparkling snow would have made it even more magical.

This year we had a special treat when we were invited to attend a stitching retreat with the ladies from The Counting Bee in Estes Park, Colorado. The snow was just beautiful, so we seized the opportunity to have our picture taken for this holiday issue.



Since Elizabeth lives in Georgia and I am in Oklahoma, it was a special treat to spend time together. There in Colorado, I had my sister ... I had snow ... it felt just like Christmas.

Bent Creek, Inc.
1408 Tender Trail
Powder Springs, GA 30127
e-mail: Bentcrk@aol.com

THE STARRY WREATH

Designed by Elizabeth Newlin and
Marsha Worley of Bent Creek, Inc.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

♥ 0360	cranberry
○ 1140	oatmeal
★ 0560	nutmeg
♦ 0140	blue spruce
■ 0150	Evergreen

DMC Anchor®

× 869	375	hazelnut, vy. dk.
✱ 680	901	old gold, dk.
ls 3021	905	brown-gray, vy. dk.

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm)
piece 28-count Zweigart® Cashel®
clay linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.

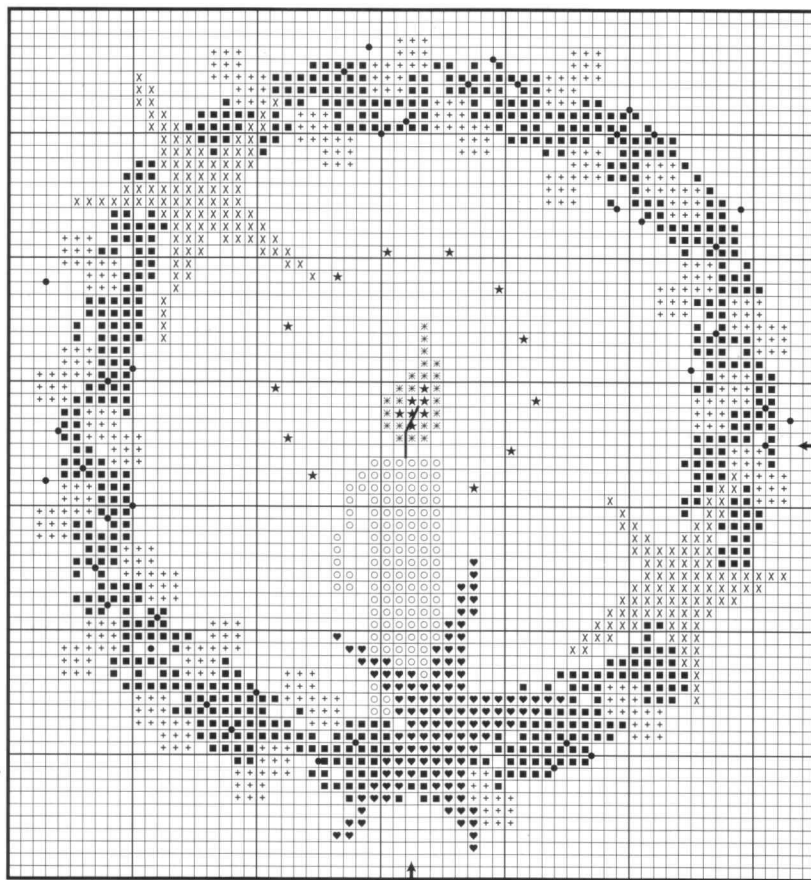
Stitch count: 66H x 61W

Design size: 4¾" x 4¾" (12cm x 11cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work colonial knot where ● appears, using two strands 0360. Work long stitch (ls) for candlewick, using one strand 3021/905. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC 814 and 498 Coton Perlé #5. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

(Photo is on page 20.)



THE STARRY WREATH

Birds of a Feather

Coffee Squares

- ½ c. shortening
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ c. hot coffee
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1½ tsp. vanilla
- ½-1 c. chopped walnuts

Cream shortening in a large mixing bowl and add sugar. Dissolve baking powder in hot coffee. Add dry ingredients, liquid, and nuts to shortening and sugar. Pour into ungreased jelly-roll pan. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until done. Frost with butter frosting and cut into squares.

Fabric: 8" x 10" (20cm x 25cm) piece 32-count cream linen

Stitch count: 42H x 73W

Design size: 2½" x 4½" (7cm x 12cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Attach beads, using two strands of matching floss.

Finishing instructions: Trim excess linen to seam allowance of ½" (13mm) from edge of stitching, following shape. Fold seam allowance to back along stitching. With wrong sides together, fold ornament in half horizontally. Using thread or floss to match linen, blind stitch edges of ornament closed, leaving a ½" (13mm) opening in center of belly. Backstitch or work double-running stitch through all thicknesses where heavy line appears where beak and tail meet bird's body, using one strand 2266. Fill ornament with polyester stuffing. Blind stitch opening closed. Attach ⅜" (9mm)-diameter gold-tone ring at top center of bird's back. Hanger was made using ¼" (6mm)-wide dark-green satin ribbon.

CHRISTMAS BIRD

Designed by Nancy Davis and Connie O'Brien of Birds of a Feather

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

- 1101 light khaki
- 2266 Turkish red
- 1224 amber
- ★ 1271 bark
- ♡ 2276 camellia
- ◇ 2156 hunter

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

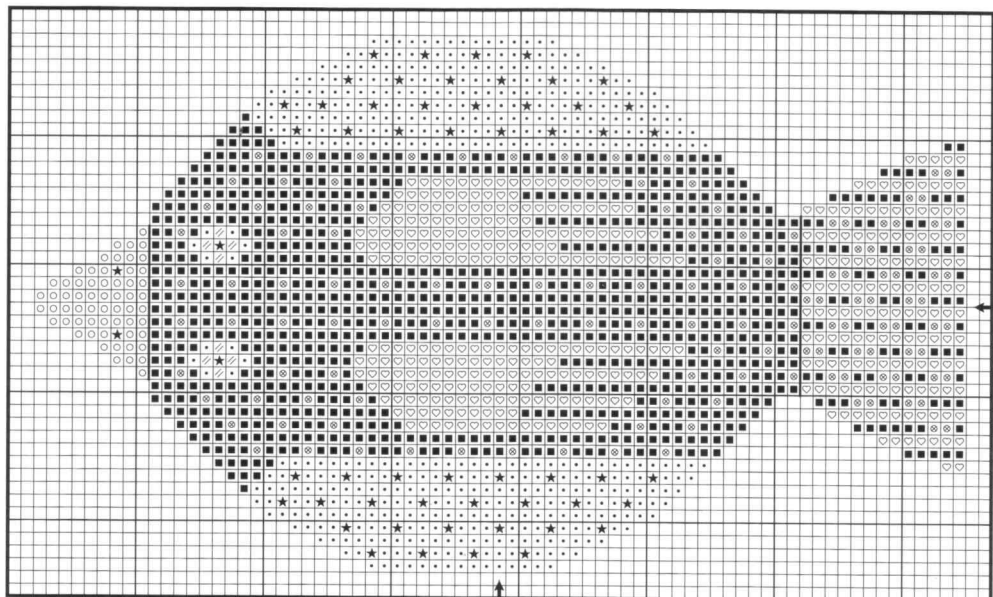
- ⊗ 02013 red red

Birds of a Feather
Post Office Box 8249
Black Butte Ranch, OR 97759
e-mail: ndavis@imagina.com



Nancy Davis

and
Connie O'Brien



CHRISTMAS BIRD

(Photo is on page 22.)

Calico Crossroads

Linda Connors

As you found out last year, I love chocolate; and I don't bake. However, my baker friend Kathy Papciak from New Jersey has once again come up with a delicious chocolate recipe that is so easy that even I can do it! I admit that I actually whipped up this cake without any trouble at all. And, of course, I can vouch that it is as delicious as it sounds and so moist. Thank you, Kathy! Happy holidays from Kathy and Calico Crossroads!

Cherry Chocolate Cake

- 1 box chocolate cake mix
- 2 eggs
- 1 can cherry pie filling
- 1 tsp. almond extract

Mix all four ingredients together and pour into a 13" x 9" cake pan. Bake at 350° until toothpick inserted into middle comes out clean. Cool.



Frosting:
6 oz. chocolate chips
1 c. sugar
5 Tbsp. butter
½ cup milk

Melt chocolate chips. Add sugar, butter, and milk. Beat well. Frost cake.

CHRISTMAS HEART

Designed by Linda Connors
of Calico Crossroads

DMC Anchor®
x 316 1017 mauve, med.
■ 3051 845 green-gray, dk.
bs 315 1019 mauve, dk.

DMC Coton Perlé #8
3033 387 mocha, vy. lt.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
bs 153V vintage burgundy
102 Vatican gold

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads
♥ 42012 royal plum

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
♦ 02010 ice

**Calico Crossroads
By Jupiter! Charms**
▲ 80029(AS) antique silver bells (2)
+ 15132(AS) antique silver "Merry
Xmas" heart

Fabric: 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 32-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 66H x 70W

Design size: 4 5/8" x 4 3/8" (10cm x 11cm)

-Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss or one strand of very fine braid. Work buttonhole stitch for border, using one strand of coton perlé. Work Kloster blocks, using one strand of coton perlé. Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads where ★ appears, using one strand 102. Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where ✱ appears, using one strand 102. Attach beads and charms, using one strand of matching floss. Tie a small bow [approximately 3/4" (2cm) wide], using 1/8" (3mm)-wide burgundy satin ribbon, and attach bow above bells on satin-stitch heart. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 12.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

315 1019 flower bases and tips
3051 845 vines, leaves
153V lettering

Finishing instructions: On another 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 32-count lambswool linen, work entire border (buttonhole stitch, Kloster blocks, Smyrna cross stitch, Algerian-eye stitch, and beads) as before for ornament back and personalize as desired. Carefully trim ornament and ornament back along buttonhole-stitch edge, being careful not to clip stitches. With wrong sides together, whipstitch ornament to ornament back, using two strands 3033/387 six-strand embroidery floss and picking up one buttonhole stitch from each side all the way around. Fold 7" (18cm) length 1/8" (3mm)-wide burgundy satin ribbon in half and insert into top of ornament between layers, catching ribbon in whipstitches to secure. Fill ornament with polyester stuffing and whipstitch ornament closed.

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Carol Emmer Designs

Carol Emmer

Immediately following World War II, the nation was recovering from rationing and necessary economies. As you might imagine, there were not too many extras available for holiday celebrations. Except for a few small toys for my brother and me, Christmas gifts in our household were handmade and practical. I remember the sturdy wool mittens, stockings, and caps that mother knitted and gave as gifts.

One of my more vivid Christmas memories during this period was that of a local radio program sponsored by the Gimble-Schuster department store of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The program, "Billy the Brownie," aired each week-evening during December for approximately five years. One of Billy's on-air duties was that of reading the many letters to Santa from children around the state. He also helped anxious kids count down the days until the eve of Santa's departure from the North Pole. Each year, the most memorable episode was the one that was broadcast on Christmas Eve. A master of suspense, Billy described the many preparations and numerous problems Santa faced before announcing that Santa had indeed left the North Pole.

I am so grateful to the Gimble-Schuster Company for the gift of this program. It was a charming promise of hope during the grim aftermath of war.

A very merry Christmas to all.



+ 3708	31	melon, lt.
♥ 353	8	peach flesh
◆ 640	393	beige-gray, vy. dk.
◆ 642	392	beige-gray, dk.
2 644	391	beige-gray, med.
√ 822	390	beige-gray, lt.
• blanc	2	white
♥ 902	897	garnet, vy. dk.
◆ 498	1005	red, dk.
× 321	47	red
○ 666	46	red, bt.
• 3801	1098	Christmas red, lt.
× 3052	844	green-gray, med.
△ 3053	843	green-gray
◆ 932	1033	antique blue, lt.
bs 356	1013	terra-cotta, med.

Design size: 4" x 2 7/8" (10cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work long stitch for eyebrows, using one strand blanc/2.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

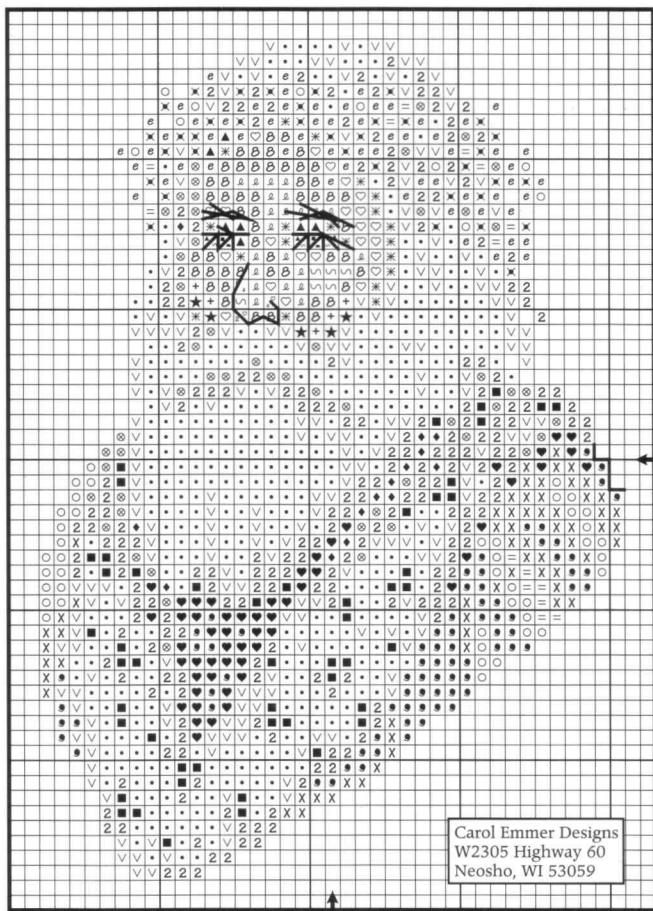
3031 905 eyes
356 1013 nose

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC 321 Cotton Perlé #3. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Fabric: 10" x 9" (25cm x 22cm) piece 28-count tumbled linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 56H x 39W

Stitched and finished by
Diane Miklaw Ketchum



PELZ NICHOL-SANTA IN FUR

Designed by Carol Emmer of
Carol Emmer Designs

DMC Anchor®

- 3031 905 mocha, vy. dk.
- ▲ 3772 1007 flesh, dk.
- × 3064 883 flesh, med.
- ♢ 758 9575 terra-cotta, lt.
- ♢ 948 1011 peach flesh, vy. lt.
- √ 3770 1009 flesh, ul. vy. lt.
- ★ 352 9 coral, lt.

Carol Emmer Designs
W2305 Highway 60
Neosho, WI 53059

Charland Designs Inc.

Charland Garvin



Christmas has long been my favorite season of the year. The sights, sounds, and scents are so evocative, with memories of times gone by and traditions kept or gradually changing throughout the years. As a child, I remember my mother making a special pie (at my grandmother's request) for Christmas-morning brunch. Usually prepared sometime during the week before Christmas, she would freeze it and then bake it Christmas morning. We had always called it "toucher pie," but upon moving to Canada, I discovered its true name: "tortiere pie." It's a French-Canadian meat pie and so very rich and filling. Our family serves it with chilled grapefruit halves, scrambled eggs, and champagne/orange juice.

Tortiere Pie

2 pie crusts (I usually use frozen ones.)
2 lbs. pork, coarse grind

1 lb. veal, coarse grind
1 large onion, minced
2-3 cloves garlic, diced
1 tsp. allspice (or more to taste)
1 tsp. salt
Dash of pepper
1 c. water with 1 tsp. vegetable-stock mix

Brown meat in olive oil or vegetable oil. Remove and put aside. Fry onions and garlic until soft. Return meat to the pan and mix with onion/garlic mixture. Add seasonings and stir. I usually add enough water to almost cover the meat. Simmer long enough to reduce liquid.

Line a pie plate with a thick crust. Place meat mixture in the crust and cover with a top crust. Cut at least four slashes in the top crust. Bake in a 375°-400° oven until crust is brown. And enjoy!

XMAS COOKIES

Designed by Charland Garvin
of Charland Designs Inc.

DMC Anchor*

∕ 436 363 tan
○ blanc 2 white

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

▲ 198 tropical rain forest
x 1531 Kris Kringle

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
032 pearl

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
☆ 02010 ice

Mill Hill Antique Glass Beads
● 03003 antique cranberry

Charland Designs Inc. Sterling Silver Charm

♥ gingerbread boy
cookie cutter

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 32-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 43H x 43W

Design size: 2 3/4" x 2 3/4" (7cm x 7cm)

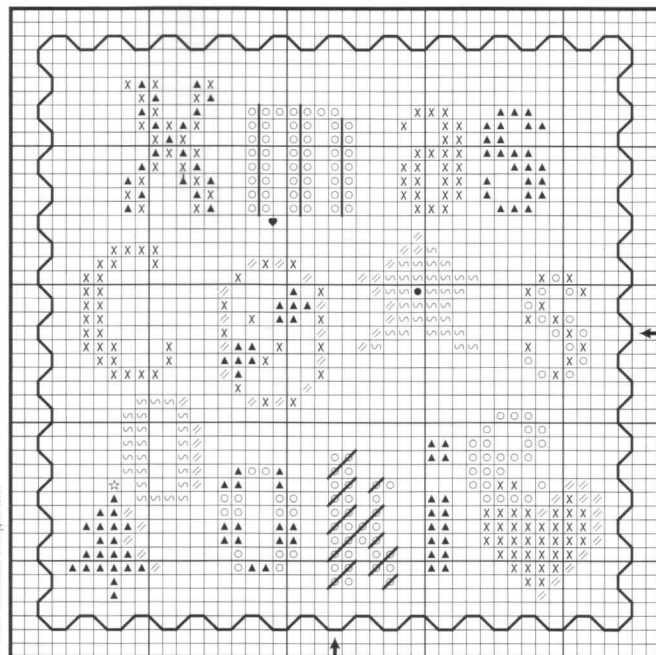
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over two threads where ∞ appears, using one strand 032 and one strand blanc/2. Backstitch using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of very fine braid and one strand of floss. Attach beads, using a half cross stitch and two strands of matching floss. Attach charm, using two strands 1531 and tying a bow with floss tails. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch instructions:

1531 M, K
[032VFB
blanc 2 border

Finishing instructions: Stitched design was placed inside a spruce check Original Tuck-A-Way® Mini Pillow from Olde Colonial Designs. One Mill Hill 05025 Pebble Glass Bead was attached to each of the four corners of the pillow.

Stitched by Carole Lowes



XMAS COOKIES

(Photo is on page 18.)

Charland Designs Inc.
33 Deforest Road
Toronto, Ontario M6S 1J1
Canada
e-mail: Charland1@aol.com

Chessie & Me

Linda
Lautenschlager



Apple Kuchen

5-6 apples, peeled and sliced
½ tsp. baking powder
1¼ c. flour **¼ tsp. salt**
1 Tbsp. sugar
½ c. butter
1 egg, beaten
1 Tbsp. water or milk

Topping:

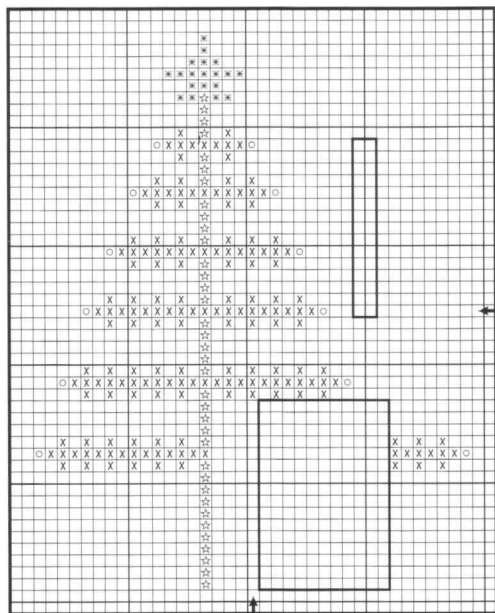
¾ c. sugar **2 Tbsp. flour**
2 Tbsp. butter **½ tsp. cinnamon**

Mix flour, salt, baking powder, and sugar together. Cut butter into flour mixture with pastry blender. Beat egg and water in a small bowl and then add to flour mixture.

Pat dough along bottom and sides of a glass baking dish (11" x 7" x 1½"). Lay apples on top of dough.

In another small bowl, cut remaining butter into sugar and flour and sprinkle topping over apples. Sprinkle with cinnamon.

Bake at 375° for 30-45 minutes until apples are cooked and crust is golden brown. Best served warm!



CHESSIE'S TREE

Designed by Linda Lautenschlager
of Chessie & Me

Anchor® DMC

☆ 944	435	wheat, dk.
× 862	520	laurel green, dk.
• 830	644	sierra, vy. lt.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

♥ 0360 cranberry

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

△ 1198	London fog
■ 1303	charcoal
✱ 2219	whiskey (Smyrna cross stitch)

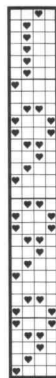
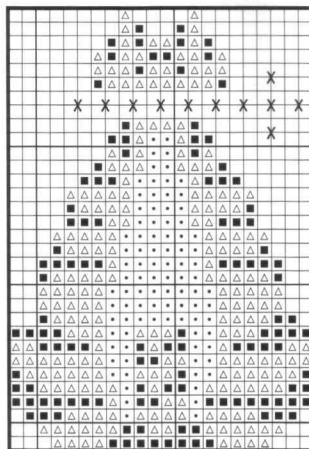
Fabric: 9" x 8" (22cm x 20cm) piece 32-count house blend linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 47H x 37W

Design size: 3" x 2½" (8cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch date and cat over one thread, using one strand of floss. (NOTE: Outline is for placement only and is not to be stitched.) Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using one strand 2219. Work French knot where ○ appears, using one strand 0360 and wrapping floss around needle once. NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording was made using DMC 815 and 890 Coton Perlé #5. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.



DATE

Chessie & Me
1330 Susan Street
Joliet, IL 60431

CAT

(Photo is on page 23.) CHESSIE'S TREE

Claire Hatten Designs

Claire Hatten

Every Christmas, I enjoy baking dozens of different cookies for my family and to give away as gifts. The children often join in, and we have fun baking our favorite old recipes and creating new ones. We all look forward to the wonderful aromas coming from the kitchen and filling the house, signaling that the Christmas season is upon us once again.



Chocolate Pinwheels

2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
⅔ c. butter, softened
1 c. sugar
1 egg
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 sq. (1-oz. each) unsweetened chocolate, melted

In a small bowl, mix first three ingredients. In a large bowl, with mixer at medium speed, cream butter, gradually adding sugar. Beat until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, beat well. Add flour mixture, ½ cup at a time, mixing well after each addition. Divide dough in half; blend melted chocolate into one half. Place each half separately between sheets of wax paper; roll into 12" x 8" (30cm x 20cm) rectangle. Remove top sheets of paper. Invert plain dough onto chocolate dough and remove remaining paper. Roll up from long side, jelly-roll style, and wrap in wax paper. Chill until firm, at least three hours, or freeze one hour.

Preheat oven to 375°. Cut dough in ¼" slices, place on ungreased baking sheets. (NOTE: To make into ornaments, poke holes in unbaked cookies near the edge with a straw. Insert a red and/or gold ribbon through the hole after the cookie has baked and cooled.) Bake about 8–10 minutes or until cookies just begin to brown around edges.

Makes about 4½ dozen cookies.

POINSETTIA SAMPLER

Designed by Claire Hatten of
Claire Hatten Designs

DMC Anchor®

△ 223	895	pink, med.
⊗ 340	118	blue-violet, med.
∩ 341	117	blue-violet, lt.
✱ 677	361	old gold, vy. lt.
● 3045	888	yellow-beige, dk.
♥ 3051	845	green-gray, dk.
× 3052	844	green-gray, med.
◆ 3722	1027	pink, med. dk.

Fabric: 10" x 9" (25cm x 23cm) piece
25-count white linen from Wichelt
Imports, Inc.

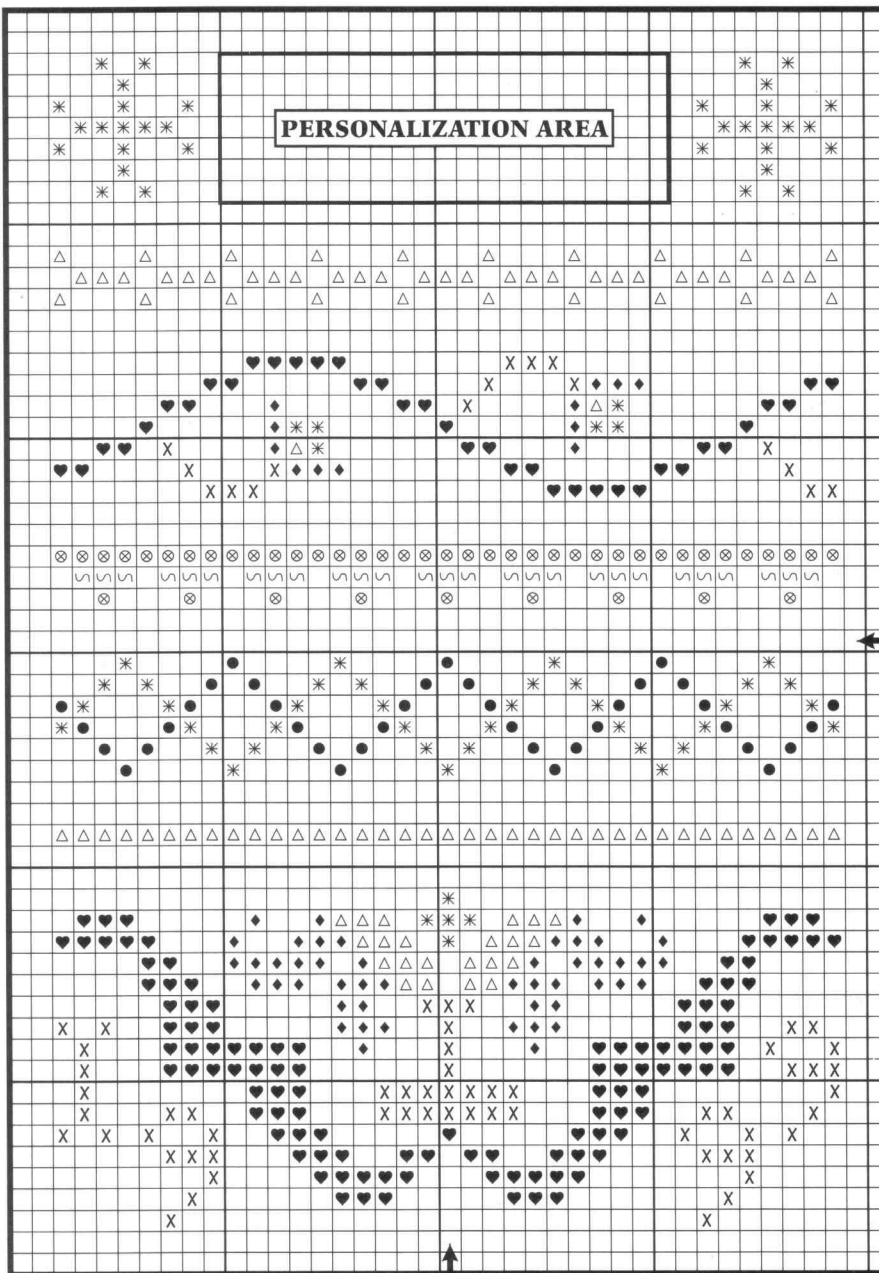
Stitch count: 55H x 37W

Design size: 4½" x 3" (11cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch initials over two threads, using two strands 3045/888 and a favorite alphabet. **NOTE:** Outline is for placement only and is not to be stitched.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 3722/1027. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Claire Hatten Designs
4060 Flippen Trail
Norcross, GA 30092
e-mail: Hattenx5@aol.com



(Photo is on page 26.)

POINSETTIA SAMPLER

Crossed Wing Collection

Paula Minkebig



My sister and I would lie in bed on Christmas Eve, not getting much sleep, trying to will the hands of the clock to move faster. Would morning ever come?

I would sneak down the hallway and peek into the living room. Backlit by a street light shining through the picture window was the tree, not there a few short hours ago when we went to bed. Surrounding the tree were all of the boxes, lots of them!

When morning finally did come, the first things we saw, sitting in front of those boxes, were our old dolls, dressed in brand new clothes, lovingly stitched by Mom. The living room was quickly transformed from this perfectly placed scene to a jumble of empty boxes, crumbled paper, and ribbon. My sister and I knew that one of those boxes held what we were looking for, a brand new doll! To this day, the smell of new vinyl transports me back to that living room scene

and those wonderfully exciting Christmas mornings past.

This cookie was always one of my childhood favorites.

Cathedral Cookies

2 c. semisweet chocolate chips

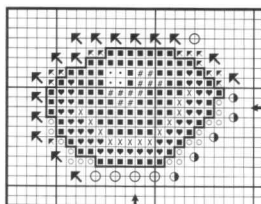
$\frac{1}{4}$ c. butter

2 eggs, beaten

1 (10-oz.) package pastel-colored marshmallows

$\frac{3}{4}$ c. chopped walnuts

Melt chocolate and butter in a saucepan over low heat. Stir in eggs. Pour over marshmallows in a large bowl and mix to coat. Chill for about 30 minutes. Divide into thirds and place on wax paper. Carefully form each portion into a log about 2" in diameter. Wrap in wax paper and chill for about one hour. Unwrap each log and roll in chopped nuts. Chill until firm. Unwrap and slice. Makes about 5 dozen.

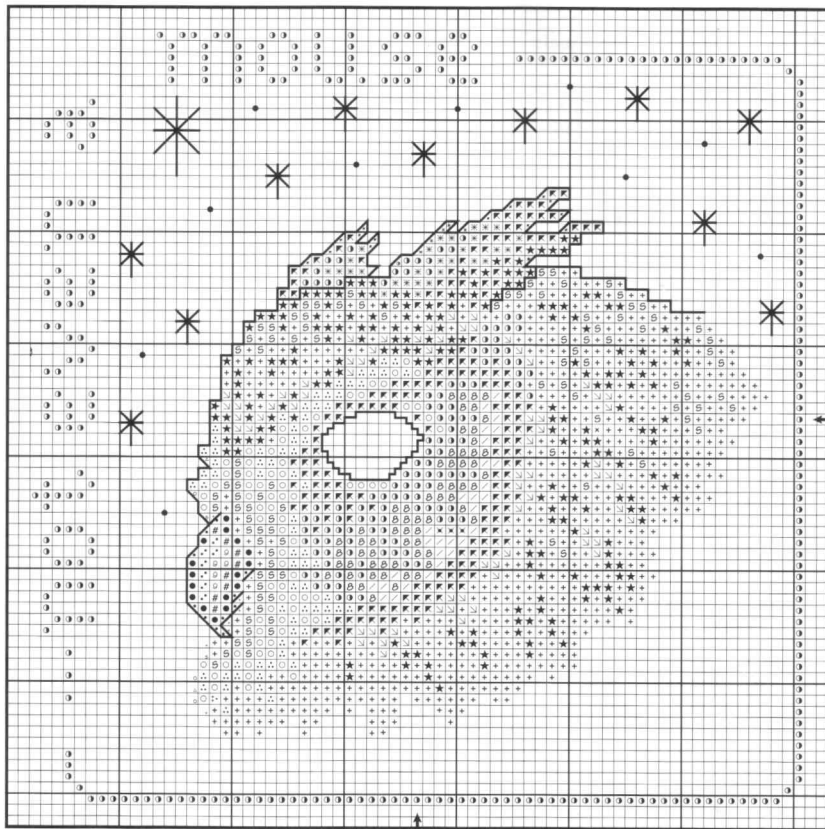


...NOT EVEN A MOUSE
EYE DETAIL CHART

... NOT EVEN A MOUSE

Designed by Paula Minkebig
of Crossed Wing Collection

DMC	Anchor*	
• blanc	2	white
■ 310	403	black
● 3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
# 413	236	pewter gray, dk.
9 414	235	steel gray, dk.
✓ 318	235	steel gray, lt.



(Photo is on page 22.)

... NOT EVEN A MOUSE

✦ 3371	382	black-brown
★ 3021	905	brown-gray, vy. dk.
✦ 3787	904	brown-gray, dk.
⊖ 3022	8581	brown-gray, med.
○ 3023	899	brown-gray, lt.
✦ 3024	388	brown-gray, vy. lt.
● 433	358	brown, med.
✦ 434	310	brown, lt.
✓ 435	365	brown, vy. lt.
♥ 3820	306	straw, dk.
✦ 3822	295	straw, lt.
✦ 3787	904	brown-gray, dk.
✓ 435	365	brown, vy. lt.
✦ 3371	382	black-brown
✦ 434	310	brown, lt.

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads ● 00557 old gold

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 28-count blue-silk linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 69H x 68W

Design size: 5" x 4 7/8" (13cm x 12cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each. Cross stitch eye over one thread, using one strand of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work elongated-eye stitch for stars, using one strand of cable. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

310 403 bill
3371 382 remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and tassel were made using 3371/382, 433/358, and cable. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Turn to page 92 for tassel-making how-tos.

Crossed Wing Collection
E2072 Spencer Lake Rd
Waupaca, WI 54981
e-mail: xdwing@execpc.com
website: <http://www.execpc.com/~xdwing/>

Orange Cookie Recipe

- 1 c. shortening
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 eggs
- Juice and rind of 1 large orange
or 2 small oranges
- 1 c. sour cream
- 3 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. soda
- 4 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Mix in the order given. Let stand 15 minutes. Drop by small spoonfuls on greased cookie sheets. Bake at 300° for 8 minutes or until light brown.

Icing:

- Juice and rind of 1 large orange
or 2 small oranges
- 1 stick (1/2 c.) butter
- 1-lb. box powdered sugar

Mix together and ice cookies while hot.

Cross My Heart, Inc. Rebecca F. Trent

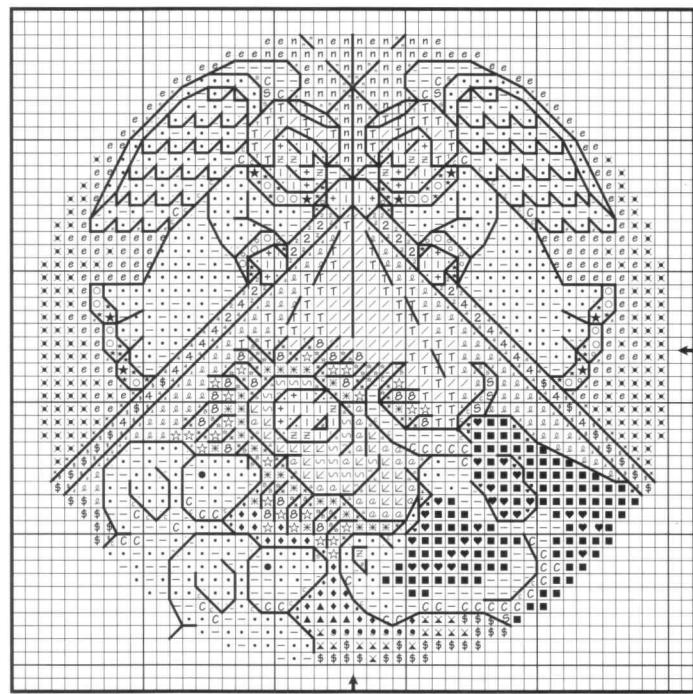
My mother would start the holiday season off by baking cookies. Dozens and dozens of cookies. Then any time company came over or carolers dropped by or an extra gift was needed, she would have trays of cookies on hand.



She would make all the dough up and freeze it until she was ready to bake. One year, my two sisters and I found all of that wonderful cookie dough sitting in the freezer. It was too big of a temptation! We would sneak out to the freezer in the garage and scoop out a spoonful of dough. When my mother went to bake the cookies, she was very surprised to find a couple of empty bowls covered with aluminum foil sitting on the freezer shelf. We had eaten all of the chocolate chip cookie dough. My mother was a little upset and threatened never to bake cookies for us again.

The years have passed, and my mother still bakes cookies for the holidays; and now the sixteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren look forward to those delicious treats, which don't seem to last as long anymore. But, to this day, no one touches mother's cookie dough without permission.

Mom said she learned this recipe from her mother and says she has never seen it in any cookbooks.



(Color code is on page 40.)

(Photo is on page 16.)

JOYFUL ADORATION

©1999 Cross My Heart, Inc.

JOYFUL ADORATION

Designed by Rebecca F. Trent
of Cross My Heart, Inc.

DMC Anchor®

■ blanc	2	white
■ 310	403	black
■ 318	235	steel gray, lt.
■ 415	398	pearl gray
■ 433	358	brown, med.
■ 434	310	brown, lt.
■ 435	365	brown, vy. lt.
■ 543	933	beige-brown, ul. lt.
★ 676	891	old gold, lt.
★ 677	861	old gold, vy. lt.
★ 729	890	old gold, med.
■ 744	301	yellow, pl.
■ 745	300	yellow, lt. pl.
■ 762	234	pearl gray, vy. lt.
■ 775	128	baby blue, lt.
■ 797	132	royal blue
■ 798	146	delft, dk.
■ 799	145	delft, med.
■ 801	359	coffee, dk.
■ 898	380	coffee brown, vy. dk.
■ 938	381	coffee, ul. dk.
■ 950	4146	flesh
■ 3325	129	baby blue
■ 3371	382	black-brown
◆ 3756	1037	baby blue, ul. vy. lt.
■ 3774	778	flesh, vy. lt.
♥ 3799	236	pewter gray, vy. dk.
■ 3823	386	yellow, ul. pl.
■ 3820	306	straw, dk.
○ 002BF		gold
★ 729	890	old gold, med.
★ 002BF		gold

Homespun Elegance Ltd. Charms
CBS brass mini star

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 18-count white Aida

Stitch count: 48H x 48W

Design size: 2½" x 2½" (7cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of floss and two strands of Kreinik Blending Filament. Work French knot where ● appears for sheep's eyes, using two strands 3371/382. Work French knots randomly atop cross stitches for sheep's wool, using two strands of floss and wrapping floss around needle three times. Attach charm in center of backstitched star, using one strand 002BF.

Backstitch instructions:

■ 3820	306	star
○ 002BF	gold	
3371	382	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Mount finished ornament in 3" (8cm)-diameter tart tin. Metallic-gold cord hanger was purchased.

Cross My Heart, Inc.
4725 Commercial Drive
Huntsville, AL 35816
e-mail: xmyheart@hsv.mindspring.com
website: <http://www.stitching.com/xmyheart/>

Cross 'N Patch

Emie Bishop

This recipe is my favorite potato casserole. I make it early in the Christmas season so that I can pull it from the freezer when our married children and our grandchildren gather for dinner at our house.

**Potato Casserole**

6 medium potatoes cooked with skins
1 can cream of chicken soup

- ¼ c. butter or margarine
- 1½ c. grated cheddar cheese
- 2 c. sour cream
- ½ c. finely chopped green onion

Peel and grate potatoes into a large bowl. Heat soup with butter until melted. Add sour cream. Pour over grated potatoes and mix lightly. Add grated cheese and onions. Cook in buttered 3-qt. casserole dish. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes or 325° for one hour. It may be made ahead and frozen.

CHRISTMAS LILY

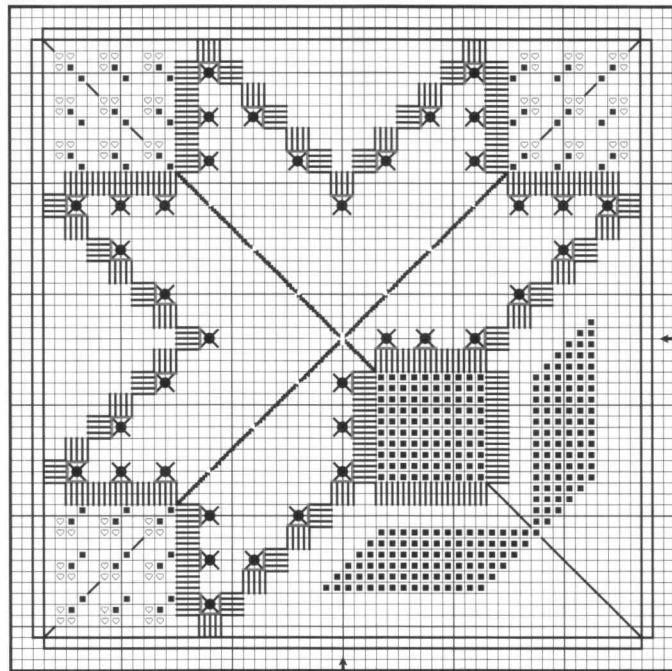
Designed by Emie Bishop
of Cross 'N Patch

DMC Anchor®

■ 895	1044	green, dk.
♥ 815	44	garnet, med.

DMC Cotton Perlé #8 and #12

ecru ecru



(Photo is on page 20.)

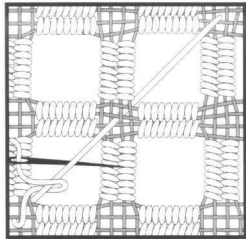
CHRISTMAS LILY

895/1044. Work running stitch for diagonal lines in three corner areas. Work long-arm cross stitch for border, using one strand of coton perlé #12. **(NOTE:** Border outline is for position only and is not to be stitched.) Work Kloster blocks, using one strand of coton perlé #8. Cut fabric threads along Kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove threads. Work woven bars, using one strand of coton perlé #12. Work web where ✕ appears, using one strand of coton perlé #12. Work

spokes where squiggly lines appear, using one strand of coton perlé #12. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger was made using one strand of coton perlé #12.

Cross 'N Patch
Post Office Box 132
Millville, UT 84326
e-mail: emieb@sunrem.com



SPOKES

Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.

Pat
Carson



Curried Chicken Balls

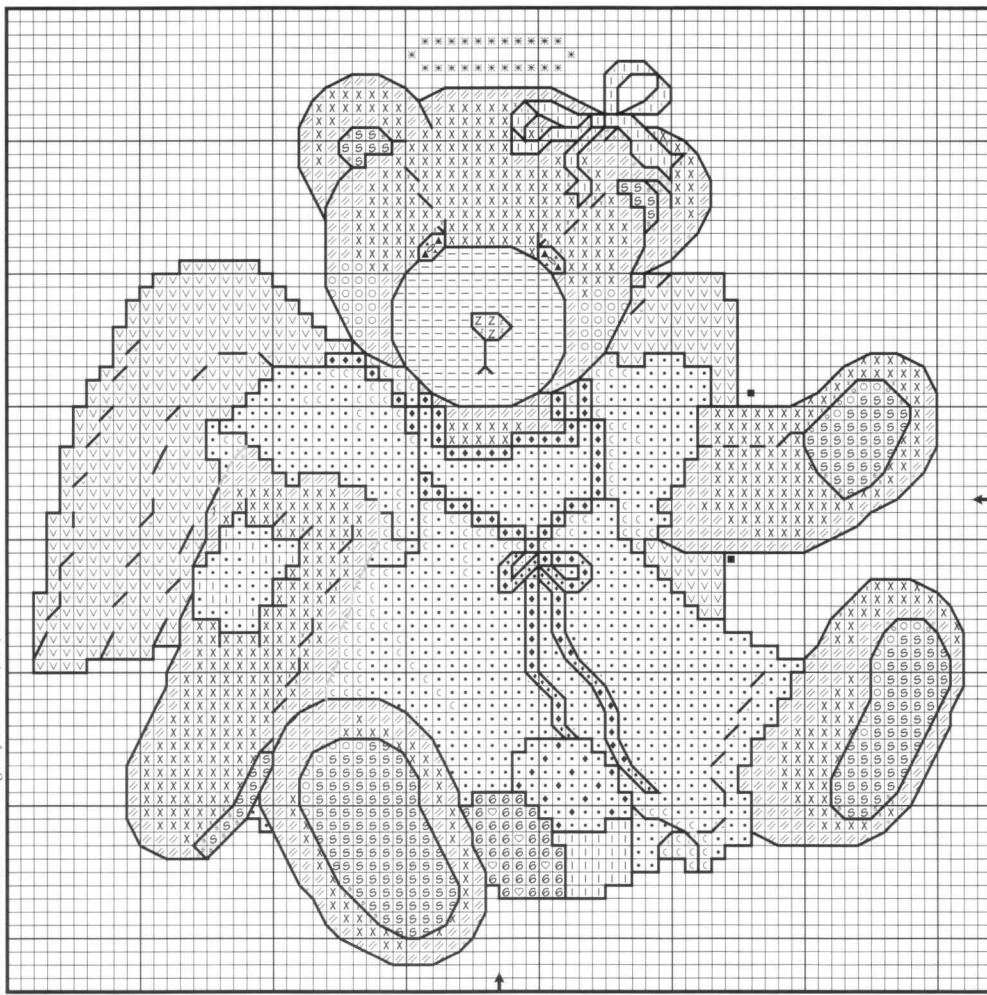
- 2 (3-oz.) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 2 Tbsp. orange marmalade
- 2 tsp. curry powder
- ¼ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. white pepper
- 3 c. finely chopped cooked chicken breasts
- 3 Tbsp. minced green onions
- 3 Tbsp. minced celery
- 1 c. finely chopped macadamia nuts, toasted

Combine first five ingredients in a mixing bowl; beat at medium speed

until smooth. Stir in chicken, onions, and celery. Shape into 1" balls and roll in nuts. Chill up to two days or freeze up to one month.

I serve these on a tray with lots of parsley and cherry tomatoes for color. These are a favorite of mine because I can make them ahead and just add a veggie tray and fruit tray, and you're all set! Merry Christmas!

Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.
Post Office Box 2318
Sumter, SC 29151
e-mail: dsgnbygp@sumter.net
website: www.gloria-pat.com



CHERISHED TEDDIES™ **"EVERY TIME A BELL RINGS..."**

Designed by Designs by Gloria & Pat, Inc.

DMC	Anchor*	
• B5200	1	bright white
• 754	1012	peach, lt.
• 353	8	peach
• 760	1022	salmon
♥ 712	926	cream
- 739	366	tan, ul. vy. lt.
× 738	361	tan, vy. lt.
× 437	362	tan, lt.
Z 433	358	brown, med.
▲ 801	359	coffee brown, dk.
• 955	203	Nile green, lt.
! 3325	129	baby blue, lt.
◆ 334	977	baby blue, med.
◊ 762	234	pearl gray, vy. lt.
* 5282	-	gold metallic
bs 434	310	brown, lt.
bs 312	979	navy blue, lt.
bs 414	235	steel gray, dk.

Kreinik Heavy Braid #32
002 gold

JHB International
447 gold bell

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece
25-count gold/cream Lugana® from
Zweigart*

Stitch count: 70H x 70W

Design size: 5½" x 5½" (14cm x 14cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Add highlights to eyes where ◊ appears, using one strand B5200 and a small backstitch. Attach bell, using one strand of heavy braid, inserting needle into fabric where ■ appears above arm, bringing needle to front of fabric where ■ appears below arm, passing needle through bell, and tying bow with heavy braid at top of arm. Trim ends of heavy braid to desired length.

Backstitch instructions:

801	359	eyes, nose, mouth
312	979	bow on bear's head, blue trim and bow on dress, patch on arm, heart pillow
414	235	dress except where indicated by gray lines

434 310 head, foot on left, remainder of bear including gray lines, wings

Finishing instructions: To work chain-stitch border, count out fourteen threads from all four sides of stitched design. Work chain stitch over two threads, using one strand DMC 712 Coton Perlé #8. Work chain-stitch border only (to cover 84 x 84 stitches) on another 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece 25-count gold/cream Lugana®, using one strand of coton perlé. Trim excess fabric to within ½" (13mm) of chain-stitch borders on ornament and backing. Finger press seam allowance to back along chain-stitch borders. Place ornament and backing with wrong sides together, aligning chain stitch. Referring to illustration on page 112, lace chain-stitch borders together, using one strand of coton perlé, adding one Mill Hill 02011 Glass Seed Bead every other lacing stitch, and inserting polyester stuffing. Hanger was made using a 12" (30cm) length of heavy braid.

Designs From **Margaret Lee**

Margaret
 Lee Rigiell

Christmas is a special time for getting together with family and friends. A time to pray for peace on earth, to spread joy to others, and to instill hope for the future. May this 1999 design, Peace "Mini" Stocking, encourage people to forgive one another and begin the new millennium with everlasting peace and harmony.

As a child, some of my fondest memories included our visits to Grandma Cox's house near the small town of Wilmore, Pennsylvania. Our family with five children would travel the dark country roads to Grandma's house, arriving in the wee peaceful hours of the morning. Always waiting for us would be warm homemade baked goods and hot chocolate. As a



special treat for our Christmas visits, Grandma would bake my very favorite: her delicious nut rolls.

Grandma Cox's Nut Rolls

Dough:

- 6¼ c. flour
- 1 tsp. salt
- ¾ c. sugar
- 2 whole eggs
- 2-3 egg yolks
- 1 pkg. (2¼ tsp.) yeast
- ¼ c. shortening
- 1 stick (½ c.) butter
- 1¼ c. milk

Dissolve yeast in ¼ c. warm milk. Mix all ingredients together and let rise until doubled. Punch down. Divide into 4-5 balls. Roll each ball into a rectangle ¼"-½" thick.

Filling:

- 1½ c. sugar
- 5 c. ground walnuts

Combine sugar and walnuts in a medium bowl. Brush rectangle with melted butter. Spread 1½-2 c. of nut mixture onto rectangle and roll up. Place roll on a cookie sheet, seam side down. Repeat for remaining rectangles. Bake at 350° for about 40 minutes or until lightly browned. Let cool. Cut into slices to serve.

PEACE "MINI" STOCKING

Designed by Margaret Lee Rigiell
 of Designs From Margaret Lee

DMC Rayon	Anchor* Marlist	
♥ 30326	894	rose, vy. dp.
× 30326	894	rose, vy. dp. (one strand)
○ 30799	835	delft, med.

Kreinik Fine Braid #8

002J Japan gold

Kreinik Japan Thread #1

002J Japan gold

Fabric: 12" x 10" (30cm x 25cm) piece 26-count silver lurex Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 82H x 53W

Design size: 6½" x 4½" (16cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work stem stitch over two threads where gray horizontal lines appear, using two strands 30799/835. Work stem stitch over two threads where single black horizontal line appears above or below gray horizontal lines, using one strand of fine braid.

Special instructions:

NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

(Continued on page 44)

(Continued from page 43)

Area 1—Couch one strand of fine braid where black horizontal lines appear, using one strand of Japan thread. Then, couch one strand of fine braid where zigzag lines appear, using one strand of Japan thread. Where zigzag lines touch horizontal lines, couch fine braid to each other.

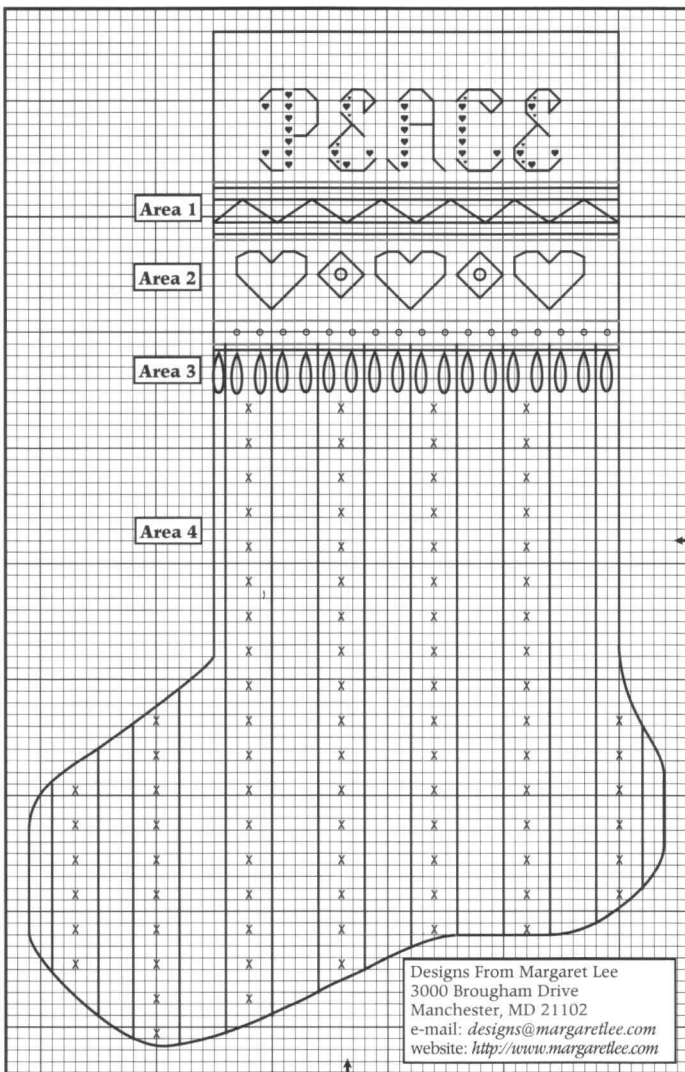
Area 2—Work Rhodes-heart stitch, using two strands 30326/894. Work diamond eyelet stitch over eight threads, using two strands 30799/835.

Area 3—Work Basque stitch, using one strand of fine braid.

Area 4—Work running stitch over two threads and under one thread where vertical lines appear, using one strand 30799/835.

Finishing instructions: Using a fabric-marking pen, transfer stocking outline to stitched ornament. Sew along drawn line. Place ornament and 12" x 10" (31 cm x 25 cm) piece of complementary fabric for backing with right sides together; pin in place. Sew just inside previous seamline, leaving top

of stocking open. Remove pins. Trim seam allowances to 1/4" (6 mm), clipping curves where necessary. Turn ornament right-side out. Turn top edge of stocking to inside approximately 1/4" (6 mm) from drawn line. Gather a 15" (38 cm) length of 3/4" (2 cm)-wide metallic-gold ribbon along one long edge. Place gathered edge of ribbon along top folded edge of stocking with right sides together, overlapping cut ends of ribbon in back; pin in place. Insert hanger between stocking and ribbon. Hanger was made using fine braid. Using a 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowance, sew through all thicknesses. Remove pins. Turn seam allowance to inside of stocking, tacking in place if necessary.



Designs From Margaret Lee
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Manchester, MD 21102
e-mail: designs@margaretlee.com
website: <http://www.margaretlee.com>

DKT Originals

Diane K. Tolle



When I first moved to Arkansas, I was invited to join a "stitching group." This was a small group of stitchers that had banded together because of their interest in stitching. To begin with, most of the members of the group were acquaintances; but friendships hadn't really had the chance to form yet. Over the years, many good and lasting friendships and special memories have formed among the group's members—we've even named our group "Counted Friends!"

Each year, we have a "white elephant" ornament exchange at our Christmas meeting. This is something we start planning for in January. Each of us tries to "out do" the others, and we are very secretive about what we are thinking about doing. Many of the group's members will stitch several ornaments in their attempt to find the perfect one! The competition has gotten extremely tough with each of us wanting to create the ornament that is "retired" first!

The night of the meeting, the competition is just as tough—certain members are known for their gorgeous Hardanger ornaments, others for special finishing techniques, etc. One

thing we all know is there has been a lot of thought and special care put into each ornament. As the wrapped ornaments are brought out, each package is carefully eyed and duly noted as to who brought it. (This doesn't guarantee anything, because most of us will trade packages several times before we actually arrive at the meeting—almost to the point that we don't even know whose ornament we ended up bringing.) We draw numbers to determine the "picking order"—everyone except for the first person can either open a new ornament or steal one that is already opened. And believe me, a group of stitchers can really get vicious when trying to steal their favorite ornament! An ornament can only be stolen three times before it is retired, and then that person is guaranteed she will be leaving with that ornament—there is lots of strategy involved here as well! The person who went first also gets the opportunity to go last, since she couldn't steal anything to start with!

As a designer and shop owner, my time for stitching "just for pleasure" is rare, but I always make time to pick out and stitch an ornament that will "knock their socks off!" A very good time is always had by all, we have lots more memories and stories to tell, and each of us has left with a very special heirloom to treasure!!

"TIS THE SEASON..." TEENY-TINY NEEDLEROLL

Designed by Diane K. Tolle
of DKT Originals

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

♥ 153 razzle dazzle red

DMC Anchor*

× 890 218 pistachio, ul. dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #7

☆ 002 gold (Smyrna cross stitch)

Access Commodities Attachments

♥ 257 tiny red jade heartshape

Fabric: 7½" x 4½" (30cm x 18cm) piece 32-count natural Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 81H x 32W

Design size: 2½" x 1" (6cm x 2.5cm)

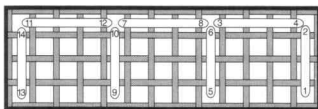
Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads,

using one strand of very fine braid or one strand of floss. (**NOTE:** Outline of Smyrna cross-stitch area is for position only and is not to be stitched.) Attach charm where ▲ appears, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

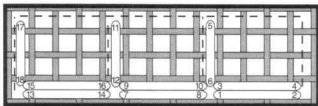
Finishing instructions: Count out 36 threads from right and left sides of stitching and work a running stitch (basting line), using one strand of sewing thread or floss. From top of stitched design, count up 20 threads and remove the next four horizontal threads to create a channel. From the top of the channel, count up 20 more threads and remove the next two threads for the hemstitch channel. Work hemstitch into hemstitch channel, using one strand DMC 642 Coton Perlé #12, beginning one thread to left of basting line, ending just past right-hand basting line, and pulling each leg. Turn linen 180° and repeat removal of threads and hemstitch for other end.

Count up four threads from hemstitch channel. Beginning one thread to right of basting line and working right to left, work first journey of decorative edging (Step 1), using one strand of coton perlé and pulling each leg. Fold linen to back along top of decorative edging. Work second journey of decorative edging (Step 2) through both layers of linen, using one strand of coton perlé, stitching on top of first journey (shown as broken lines in Step 2), and pulling each leg. Remove first horizontal thread of seam allowance on back to create a ditch. Trim seam allowance in ditch. Turn linen 180° and repeat decorative edging for other end.

Trim seam allowance on right and left sides of stitching to ¼" (6mm) of basting lines. Fold seam allowance to back along basting lines. Whipstitch basting lines together, using one strand of coton perlé. Weave a 12" (30cm) length ¼" (3mm)-wide red satin ribbon through first channel, going over and under two threads. Draw ribbon ends together to close opening and tie a bow. Fill with polyester stuffing. Weave another piece of ribbon into remaining channel in the same manner.



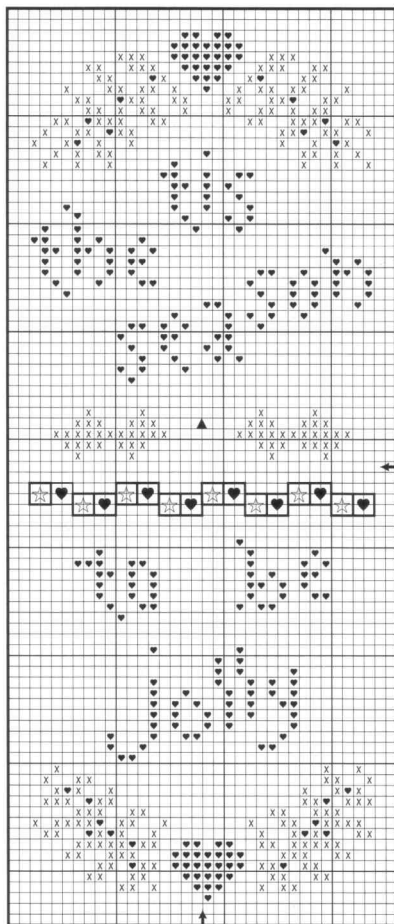
DECORATIVE EDGING—STEP 1



DECORATIVE EDGING—STEP 2

DKT Originals
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Bentonville, AR 72712
e-mail: DKTolle@aol.com

(Photo is on page 10.)



Douglas Designs

Virginia Douglas

Each year, following Thanksgiving, we begin making preparations for a great Christmas celebration. Decorations are hung, the tree is trimmed, and the fruitcake is spiked with brandy. The snow starts to fall, and life is wonderful!

But something went amiss last year. Everything else connected with Christmas fell into place, except for the snow. In my usual holiday rush, I had forgotten that we moved to Arkansas; and it never snows in Arkansas.

Snow is a necessary part of the holiday season, so we decided to head north to visit our family in Michigan and Indiana. And then something else went amiss. There was a nasty ice storm the night before our flight. Traveling mostly on a sheet of ice, we slid into the airport just in time to be told that the plane was still in Memphis. About three hours after the normal departure time, we finally left Little Rock, on our way to a connection in Cincinnati. Because our flight was delayed, we missed our connection to Detroit and lost one of our six bags.

The next morning we arrived in Detroit, happy to find a little bit of snow that had eluded us thus far. Later that day, we left for Fort Wayne, Indiana; and there too, we found a little more of the white stuff.

The lost suitcase, full of gifts for family and friends, did not arrive until two days after Christmas. Our travel by car back to Detroit to visit our son, his wife, and our first and only grandchild, Zoe, was uneventful. After a few days in Michigan, we flew back to Arkansas. Who would have ever thought we would spend so much time after moving south trying to get back north!

Cranberry Salad

- 2 c. water
- 2 large pkgs. cherry Jello®
- 3 c. 7Up® or Sprite®
- 1 (12-oz.) pkg. fresh cranberries, chopped
- 1 large can Mandarin oranges
- 1 (15-oz.) can crushed pineapple
- 1 medium apple, diced
- 1 c. chopped pecans

Bring water to a boil. Add Jello® and stir until completely dissolved. Add 7Up® and rest of the ingredients. Mix well. Refrigerator until set.

DAWN OF THE MILLENNIUM

Designed by Virginia Douglas
of Douglas Designs

DMC	Anchor®	
■ 895	1044	green, dk.
× 987	244	forest, dk.
◇ 3363	262	pine green, med.
♡ 640	393	beige-gray, vy. dk.
Fk 816	43	garnet
bs 939	152	navy, vy. dk.
bs 3781	1050	mocha brown, dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
× 003V vintage red (Smyrna cross stitch)

Jennie Boyd Porcelains
♥ holly heart button

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece
28-count antique white linen from
Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 52H x 42W

Design size: 3¾" x 3" (9cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using one strand of very fine braid. Work French knot (Fk) where ● appears, using three strands 816/43 and wrapping floss around needle once. Attach button, using one strand of very fine braid and tying a small bow with floss tails. Glue bow in place with a small amount of clear-drying glue or couch bow in place, using one strand 816/43. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

310 403 lettering
939 152 leaf veins
3781 1050 stems (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 640/393. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Douglas Designs
3030 Westover Drive
Conway, AR 72032
e-mail: stitch@douglas-designs.com
website: douglas-designs.com



(Photo is
on page
12.)

Dragon Dreams

Jennifer L.
Aikman-Smith

HOLIDAY KEEPSAKE BELLPULL

Designed by Jennifer L. Aikman-Smith
of Dragon Dreams

DMC	Anchor*	
✕ 453	231	shell gray, lt.
✕ 452	232	shell gray, med.
★ 451	233	shell gray, dk.
■ 986	246	forest, vy. dk.
ck 326	59	rose, vy. dk.
bs 3371	382	black-brown

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4	
○ 032	pearl
• 025	grey
✕ 002HL	gold hi lustre

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads	
○ 02017	crystal aqua

Fabric: 12" x 9" (30cm x 23cm) piece
22-count blueberry Janina* from
Zweigart*

Stitch count: 69H x 40W

Design size: 6½" x 3½" (16cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using three strands of floss or two strands of very fine braid. Backstitch using one strand of floss or two strands of very fine braid. Work diamond-eye stitch over eight threads for stars, using one strand 032. Work colonial knot (ck) where • appears, using two strands 326/59. Attach beads, using one strand 032. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

002HL date
3371 382 remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Turn raw edges of sides to back, leaving ¼" (3mm) margin on either side of stitched design. Turn under one raw edge at center back and press. Blind stitch folded edge. Turn under ½" (13mm) at top and bottom. Press. Leaving ¾" (2cm) margin from stitched design, turn under top and bottom edges. Insert 5¼" (14cm)-wide bellpull hardware and blind stitch folded edges on back of bellpull. Twisted-cording hanger was made using 002HL and 025. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.



The most essential things about the holiday seasons are the traditions we create with our families and look forward to each year. When Nick and I celebrated our first Christmas as husband and wife, ten years ago this December, we began to blend the traditions that we each grew up with into something uniquely our own.

Now we are sharing these traditions with our daughters, Erin and Bethany. At four, Erin is old enough to anticipate some of her favorites, like the tiny tree she puts in her own room. Bethany wasn't even a year old this Christmas, but I know she will take in the sights and sounds of the season even if she'll need help unwrapping her presents.

This year's recipe has been part of my family's holiday traditions since my dad did his medical residency in Providence, Rhode Island, over 30 years ago. One of our neighbors shared this recipe with us. It can easily be made up the day before and enjoyed cold if that is easier.

Dragon Dreams

112 Highmeadow Drive,
Moncton, New Brunswick E1G 2C4
Canada

e-mail: dragonldr@nbnet.nb.ca

website: <http://DragonDreams.acra.ca>

Mrs. DeRosi's Sour Cream Coffee Cake

½ lb. butter (not margarine)	
2 c. sugar	4 eggs
2 c. sour cream	4 c. flour
3 tsp. baking powder	2 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. baking soda	

Filling:

¾ c. brown sugar	4 tsp. flour
2 tsp. cinnamon	
1 c. chopped nuts (walnuts or pecans)	

Grease and flour a 10" tube pan.

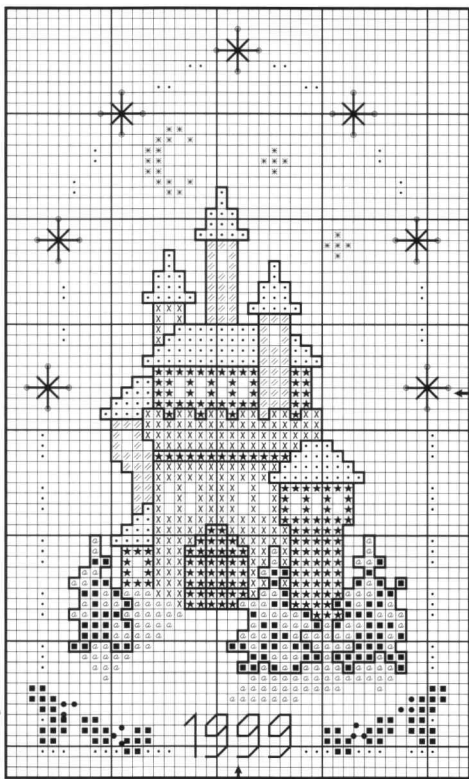
In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar well. Add eggs, mixing well after each one. Add sour cream and vanilla, then mix well again. Add dry ingredients and mix well yet again.

Mix all topping ingredients in a medium bowl until well combined.

Place a third of cake batter in tube pan (batter should be about ½" thick). Sprinkle with just over a third of filling mixture. Layer second third of batter, then second third of filling. Repeat, ending with last third (or slightly less) of filling on top.

Bake at 350° for one hour WITHOUT PEEKING! Shut oven off and leave for 15 minutes more; check with toothpick or knife. If top seems gooey but knife comes out clean, turn on broiler for a few minutes—but watch closely! Cool in pan for at least 15 minutes before serving.

(Photo is on page 9.)



HOLIDAY KEEPSAKE BELLPULL

The Drawn Thread

Cynthia Zittel



MINIATURE BELLPULL ORNAMENT

Designed by Cynthia Zittel
of The Drawn Thread

DMC	Anchor*
○ ecru	387 ecru
● 676	891 old gold, lt.
★ 610	889 drab brown, vy. dk.
! 613	831 drab brown, lt.
■ 310	403 black
bs 3021	905 brown-gray, vy. dk.
bs 977	1002 gold-brown, lt.

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

× 153	razzle dazzle red
× 133	British green

By Jupiter! Charms

80043	miniature star
-------	----------------

Fabric: 12" x 7" (30cm x 18cm) piece 36-count dirty Edinborough* linen from Zweigart*

Stitch count: 107H x 21W

Design size: 6" x 1 1/4" (15cm x 3cm)

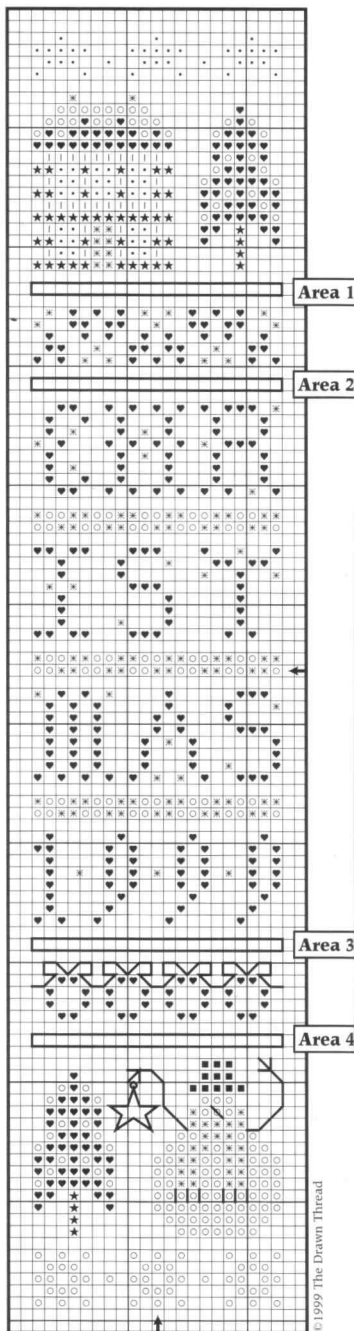
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work double backstitch for Areas 1–4, using one strand ecru/387. (**NOTE:** Outline of areas is for position only and is not to be stitched.) Attach charm where large ☆ appears, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

153	wreath bows, fringe on snowman's scarf
3021	905 snowman's arms and hands
977	1002 snowman's nose

Finishing instructions: Trim linen at top and bottom of ornament to 1 1/4" (3cm) from stitching. Fold ornament in half vertically with right sides together. Measure 2" (5cm) from folded edge and backstitch or sew a seam between two fabric threads the entire length of ornament. Trim seam allowance to 1/4" (6mm); press open. Turn ornament right-side out. Center seam in back and gently press from back. Turn 1/4" (6mm) from top and bottom raw edges to inside of ornament (between layers of linen). Gently press. Whipstitch folded edges together at top and bottom of ornament. Fold these edges over 3/8" (9mm) on back and whipstitch in place. Insert 2" (5cm)-wide brass bellpull hardware (#343-5) with brass bell from Wichelt Imports, Inc., into rod pockets on back of ornament.

(Photo is on page 29.)



MINIATURE BELLPULL ORNAMENT

My favorite Christmas memory is of my first Christmas in Colorado. My husband and I moved back to his native state from California after he graduated from college. Having lived in California for fifteen years, I was looking forward to all the romance and charm of a Colorado "White Christmas."

When it began to snow early in the morning of Christmas Eve, I was thrilled. My first white Christmas in over fifteen years! I couldn't wait.

When we awoke on Christmas Day, the front door wouldn't open. It had snowed heavily all day Christmas Eve and throughout the night, blocking the front door and mounting high above the window sills. There was over four feet of snow that Christmas morning in Colorado!

Since it was a holiday, the road crews were not working. None of the streets or highways in Denver had been plowed.

After digging out enough to open the front door, my husband and I had to figure out how to get to my in-law's house where we were expected for Christmas dinner. No roads were open; and even if they had been, our little Volkswagen Rabbit couldn't have made it through the snow-covered streets.

My husband had a great idea. It wasn't all that far to my in-law's house. We could get out our cross-country skis and ski to their house for Christmas dinner!

We arrived, cold but in high spirits, for a lovely turkey dinner and beautiful gifts to open. It was the perfect Christmas Day!

The Drawn Thread
39 Buckthorn Drive
Littleton, CO 80127
e-mail: drawnthread@aol.com
website: www.drawnthread.com

Earth Threads

Betsy C. Stinner

I cannot bake. I even have an expensive bread maker, and the bread that I produce could be used as an anchor for a large ship! So, at Christmas time, I usually depend on the baking largesse of good friends. But, strangely enough, I do love to cook and love to make homemade soups. There is something so comforting with a big old pot of soup bubbling away on the stove. I usually try to have some soup available during the holidays for family and friends. This is my all-time favorite soup recipe.



Kale Soup

- 1 large bunch of kale
- 3 large potatoes
- 1 lb. Kielbasa sausage (Sometimes I add more—makes the soup heartier.)
- 1 c. chopped onions
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 2 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- 2 qt. chicken broth
- 2 (14½-oz.) cans diced tomatoes, including broth
- Salt and freshly ground pepper to taste

In a large saucepan, sauté onions and garlic in oil and butter, cooking until softened, about 5 minutes. While onions are cooking, wash, peel, and chop potatoes. Add broth and potatoes to garlic and onion; simmer partially covered for approximately 15–20 minutes until potatoes soften. Prick Kielbasa sausage and blanch in boiling water for 5–10 minutes. Strip leaves from washed kale and cut diagonally into wide slices. Once potatoes are cooked, mash against the side of your pot. Add Kielbasa and kale and cook for another 5–10 minutes. Salt and pepper to taste.

Earth Threads
22 Boltwood Avenue
Castleton, NY 12033
e-mail: Castlbc@aol.com
website: earth.threads.com

CHRISTMAS PINES

Designed by Betsy C. Stinner
of Earth Threads

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

- ☆ 2166 bayberry
- ✱ 2166 bayberry (Smryna cross stitch)
- 1279 holly
- 1329 blackberry
- 2220 curry

Access Commodities Spangles

- ¢ GTSF3 gold

Mill Hill Frosted Glass Beads

- 62032 frosted cranberry

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm) piece 32-count natural Belfast* linen from Zweigart*

Stitch count: 49½ x 33W

Design size: 3½" x 2½" (8cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two

threads, using two strands of floss. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Special instructions:

NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Areas 1 and 9—Work triple cross stitch, using two strands 1329. Work center upright cross stitch, using two strands 2220.

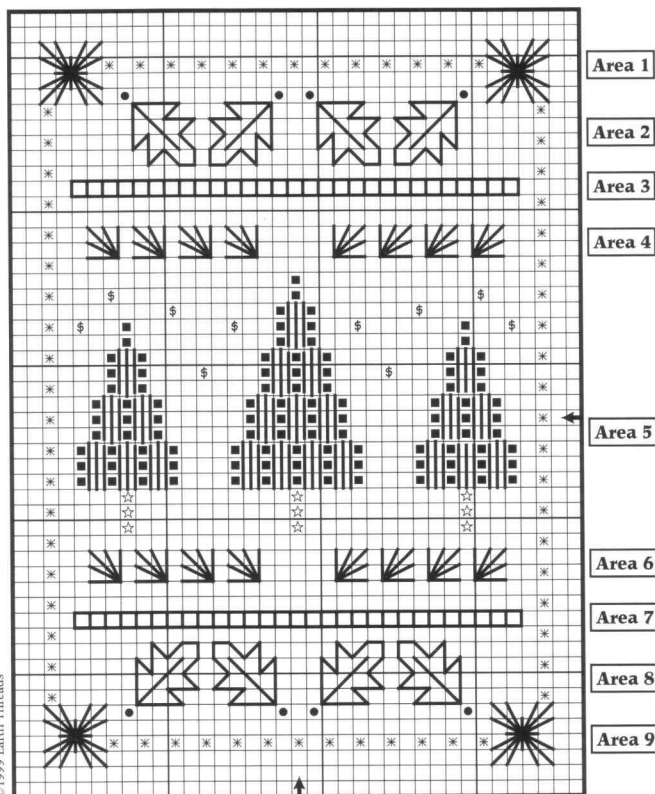
Areas 2 and 8—Backstitch holly leaves, using one strand 1279. Attach beads with a cross stitch, using two strands of matching floss.

Areas 3 and 7—Work four-sided stitch over two threads, using two strands 1329.

Areas 4 and 6—Work ray stitch, using two strands 2166.

Area 5—Work vertical satin stitch, using three strands 2166. Attach spangles, using one strand 2220.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Metallic-gold trim was purchased.



Elizabeth's Designs

Elizabeth Foster

Every Christmas, my family and I spend a day making cutout sugar and gingerbread cookies, using Grandma Yates' recipes. My mother used this recipe when I was growing up, and I now have the collection of cookie cutters that includes some of my grandmother's, some my mother added, and now some that I have added. We always make a large number of animals in addition to the traditional Christmas cutouts and always a few "blue moons," just as we did when my brothers and I were small. Then we had "rules" such as bells and Santas must be frosted red, trees green, and stars yellow. My son, Tom, likes



to bend the "rules" at times, but he has his favorites just as we did—rabbits and chickens because they're the biggest! My favorite has always been Christmas trees.

Grandma Yates' Sugar Cookies

3 1/4 c. flour	1 1/2 c. sugar
3/4 c. butter, softened	2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla	1/2 tsp. salt
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder	2 Tbsp. milk

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large bowl, beat all ingredients except milk until well mixed. Add milk and mix just until dough forms a ball. Wrap in wax paper and refrigerate 2–3 hours.

On a floured surface, roll half of dough while keeping the rest refrigerated. Roll about 1/4" thick. Cut out cookies and bake on ungreased cookie sheets 8–10 minutes or until edges just begin to brown. Frost and decorate with sprinkles.

Frosting:

2 c. powdered sugar
1/4 tsp. vanilla
Food coloring of your choice
Milk

In a small bowl, combine first three ingredients. Add milk until spreading consistency is achieved. Mix well.

Frost cookies. Allow cookies to "dry" on wax paper several hours and then layer between wax paper in air-tight containers.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Designed by Elizabeth Foster
of Elizabeth's Designs

DMC Anchor®

× 500	683	blue-green, vy. dk.
	blanc	2 white
• 3802	1019	antique mauve, dp.
3829	901	old gold, vy. dk.

Needle Necessities

Floss Overdyed

139 mountain spruce

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads

• 03037 abalone

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

★ 12184	matte crystal small crescent moon
▲ 12192	matte gray/brown sitting bunny

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm) piece 28-count lambswool linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

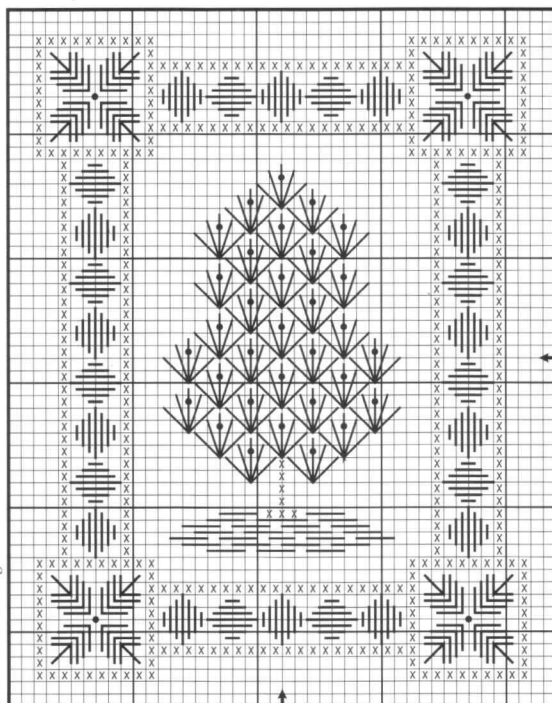
Stitch count: 52H x 40W

Design size: 3 3/4" x 2 7/8" (9cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work satin-stitch diamonds in border, using two strands 3802/1019. Work corner leaf motifs, using two strands 139. Work long stitches for snow, using two strands blanc/2. Work tree leaf stitches, using two strands 139. Attach beads with a cross stitch, using one strands 139. Attach moon treasure, using one strand blanc/02. Attach bunny treasure, using one strand 3829/901. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 500/683 and 3802/1019. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Ends of cording were embellished using antique seed beads.

Finished by Kathy Randall



© 1999 Elizabeth's Designs

(Photo is on page 11.)

CHRISTMAS EVE

Elizabeth's Designs
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website: <http://members.aol.com/elizfoster>

Fanci That Patterns, Inc.

Beth Hendzlik



A favorite Christmas memory of mine—you know, the kind that brings a warm smile to your face—comes to mind quite often during the season. Up until I was around five years old, my family lived in Cincinnati, Ohio. I remember going to a “big” department store called “Shilatoose.” (I am not sure of the spelling—it’s been a long time.) Anyway, going to see Santa Claus was truly a spectacular event. The lower level of the store had an entire North Pole village—just the kind I imagined it would be to travel through. There were elves, carolers, and reindeer, various shops and, of course, snow and “sparklies.” Finally when I reached Santa, I was so excited I couldn’t wait to sit on his lap. And I truly knew he was Santa. Afterwards, Santa’s helpers would send me to the North Pole store to purchase all my family’s presents with the \$3.00 I had in my pocket. I particularly remember a brownish-gold, four-row beaded bracelet I got for my mom. I knew she would love it. It was such a joy to give and still is. Merry Christmas!

Fanci That Patterns, Inc.
Post Office Box 21833
Columbus, OH 43221
e-mail: bkh@fancithat.com
website: www.fancithat.com

(Photo is on page 14.)

CHRIST CHILD

Designed by Beth Hendzlik
of Fanci That Patterns, Inc.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- 1040 black crow
- 1140 oatmeal
- ☆ 0420 gold leaf
- * 0540 brandy
- ♥ 1110 sable
- z 1020 pebble
- bs 0340 red grape
- ls 0430 summer meadow
- ls 1150 flax

DMC Anchor®

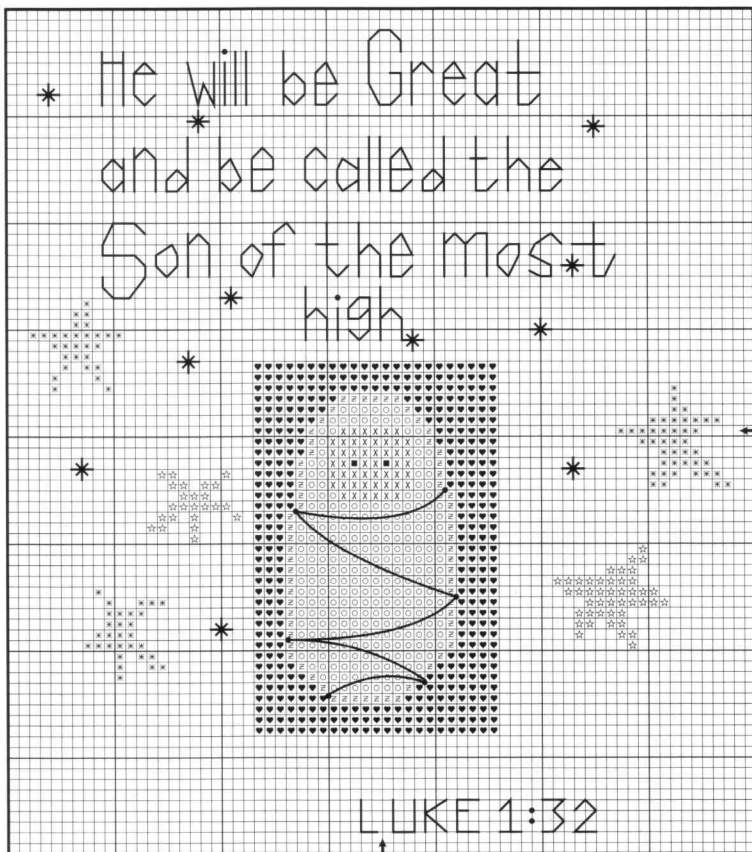
- x 407 914 flesh, dk.

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece
27-count clay Northern Cross linen
from Norden Crafts, Ltd.
Stitch count: 75H x 66W

Design size: 5½" x 5" (14cm x 13cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch (bs) lettering, using two strands 0340. Work star stitch over four threads for small stars, using one strand 0540. Work long stitch (ls) for lines on swaddling clothes, using two strands 1020. Work French knot where • appears at intersecting grid lines, using three strands 1020 and wrapping floss around needle once. Randomly work long stitch for straw, using one strand each 0430 and 1150. Randomly work straight stitch for hair, using one strand 1110.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornamental finishing instructions on page 61. Trim and hanger were made using jute twine and were couched using one strand each 0430 and 1150.



CHRIST CHILD



Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches

Lauren Sauer



Baking and candy-making occupy the time of many families, the world over, in the weeks that precede Christmas—a creative “tie that binds” generations together as much as the threaded needle does.

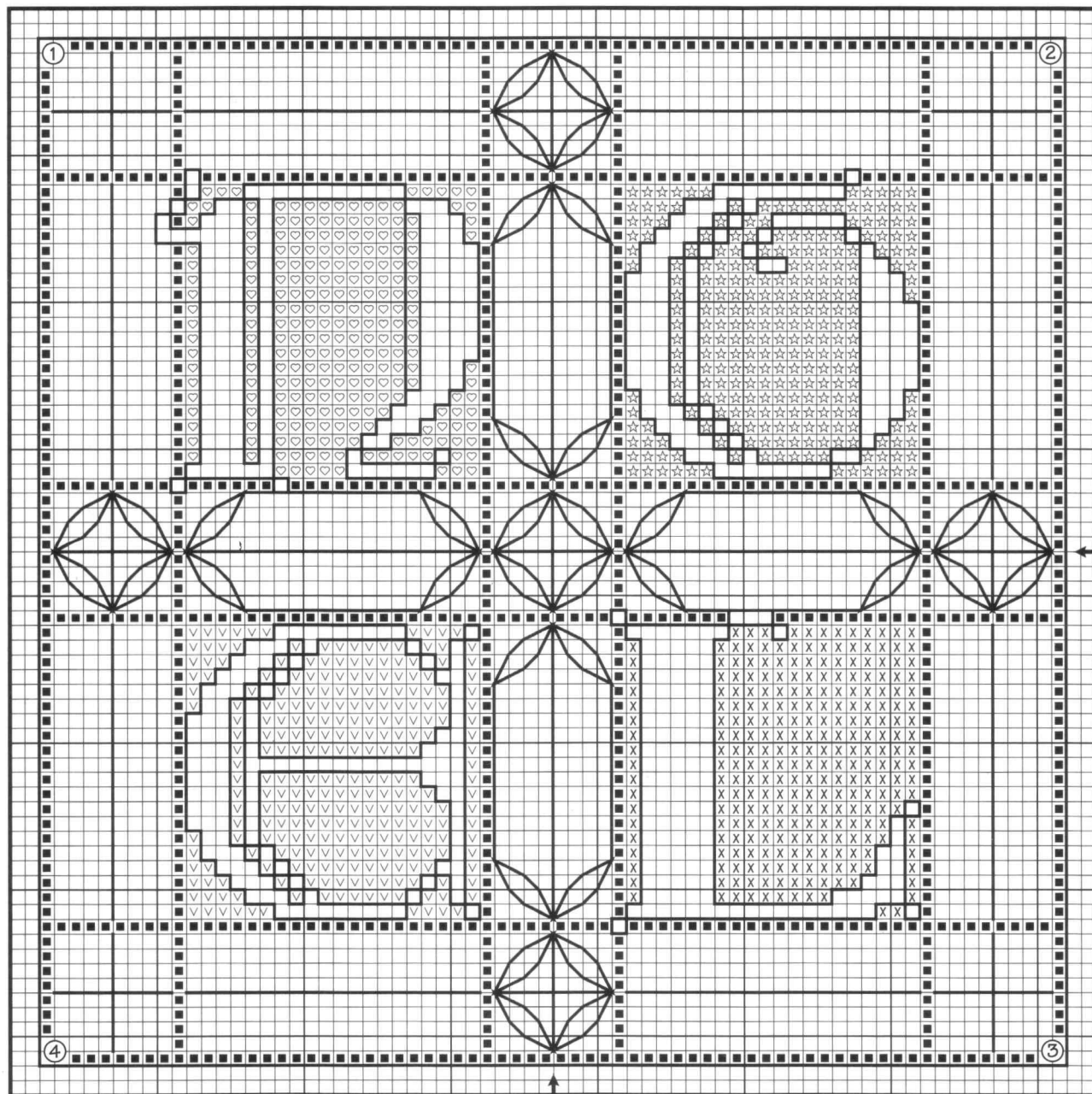
There were four “bakers” in my family as I was growing up: my mother, Kay; my paternal grandma, Gustie

(Augusta); and two aunts, Jan and Ruth. I can still “see” very clearly these four uniquely individual women, mothers all, tying on their colorful, freshly laundered and starched, perfectly-pressed aprons, ready to work their culinary magic over the wooden spoons, mixing bowls, and endless cookie sheets.

Nut grinding was always something that even the littlest “helpers” could manage. We were also good

“fork-detailers” for the imprinting of peanut-butter cookies, pecan-half arrangers for turtle cookies, and excellent maraschino cherry “placers” for cherry blinks. We tried hard not to be in the way; but it was hard, for all those spoons and beaters had to be licked and mixing bowls to be scraped clean of smidgens of dough or frosting.

Tins and boxes were filled with cookies very quickly; and “ours” were stored on two flights of stairs, both sides, leading to the attic. One year, my father, Chuck, estimated that over 2,000 cookies came out of our kitchen! Needless to say that little (human) “mice” occasionally sampled the goodies on their way up to bed. My



(Photo is on page 8.)

A STAINED-GLASS NOËL

1 c. Robin, and I shared a bedroom in the attic; and our brother, Brian, had his bedroom very near the foot of those cool and out-of-the-way stairs.

The following is one of my most favorite cookies; I hope you will agree.

Cream Wafers

(Known as "Pariserwafel" in Sweden, they are very rich and flaky.)

1 c. butter, softened
1/3 c. cream (with at least 35% butterfat)
2 c. sifted flour
Granulated sugar

In a large bowl, mix butter, cream, flour. Chill. Heat oven to 375°. Roll out a third of dough 1/8" thick on floured board; keep rest refrigerated. Cut with 1 1/2"-diameter cutter. Transfer rounds to wax paper, heavily covered with granulated sugar. Turn each round so that both sides are coated with sugar. Place on ungreased cookie sheet. Prick with fork about four times. Bake 7-9 minutes. Cool and put two cookies together with filling (like a sandwich). Makes about 5 dozen double cookies.

Filling:

1/4 c. butter, softened
3/4 c. powdered sugar, sifted
1 egg yolk
1 tsp. vanilla
Pink and green food coloring

Combine ingredients in a small bowl and stir together. Divide filling into equal portions and tint with food coloring.

A STAINED-GLASS NOËL

Designed by Lauren Sauer
 of Forget-Me-Not's in Stitches

The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors

♥ 063 in the reds
 ☆ 071 lavender blues
 ♥ 029 grape melange
 x 085 holiday greenery

Au Ver A Soie Soie d'Alger

■ noir black

DMC Anchor*

bs 310 403 black

Fabric: 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 28-count white Zweigart® Cashel® linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.

Stitch count: 70H x 70W

Design size: 5" x 5" (13cm x 13cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. (NOTE: Each color block on stitched ornament was worked with cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.) Backstitch (bs) border, using one strand 310/403. Work double-running stitch for letter outlines and remainder of lines, using one strand 310/403. NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Special instructions:

Area 1—Work eyelet stitch over four threads, using one strand 085.

Area 2—Work rice stitch over four threads, using one strand 029.

Area 3—Work Rhodes stitch over four threads, using one strand 063.

Area 4—Work padded diagonal satin stitch over four threads, using one strand 071.

Finishing instructions: On another 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 28-count white Zweigart® Cashel® linen, backstitch ornament outline as before as well as any other portion of design desired for ornament back. Personalize as desired. Place one 4 7/8" x 4 7/8" (12cm x 12cm) piece sturdy white cardboard with white side down atop wrong side of ornament. Fold each corner of linen on the diagonal over cardboard. Fold straight edges along backstitched outline over cardboard, mitering corners. Sew folded edges of each corner together with sewing thread. Repeat for ornament back with another 4 7/8" x 4 7/8" (12cm x 12cm) piece sturdy white cardboard.

Place one 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" (11cm x 11cm) piece sturdy white cardboard between ornament front and ornament back with wrong sides together. Align backstitch lines and lace together through backstitch, using one strand 310/403 and adding one Mill Hill 00081 Glass Seed Bead every other lacing stitch. Hanger was made by stringing seed beads.

Forget-Me-Not's in Stitches
 2043 Random Road #203
 Cleveland, OH 44106-5915
 website: <http://www.needlework.net/ForgetMeNotInStitches>

Twirly Whirls

1 1/4 c. sifted all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1 oz. (1 sq.) unsweetened chocolate
4 oz. (1 stick) butter or margarine, softened
1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 c. sugar
1 egg

Melt chocolate in a double boiler over medium heat and set aside to cool. Combine and sift flour, baking powder, and salt. In a large bowl, cream butter or margarine, using an electric mixer. Add vanilla, sugar, and egg to creamed butter and beat well. On low speed, gradually add sifted dry ingredients, scraping bowl with a rubber spatula until mixer will no longer work the dough. Add remainder of dry ingredients and work with hands until dough is just sticky to the touch.

Divide dough in half. Add melted chocolate to one half of dough. Cut four pieces of wax paper about 18" long. Place each half in the center between two sheets of wax paper and roll until thin, forming an oblong about 14" x 9". Remove wax paper from one side of both rolled pieces of dough. Turn chocolate dough upside down and place on top of vanilla dough. Carefully roll dough into tube shape. Wrap tube in wax paper and refrigerate until firm.

Preheat oven to 350°. Cut dough into 1/4"-thick slices. Place on cookie sheet. Bake about 12 minutes or until the bottoms are just brown. Cool and serve with milk!

For Stitchers' Sake
 Post Office Box 896
 Harrisonburg, VA 22801-0896
 e-mail: lnorford@gte.net

(Color code and chart are on page 54.)

For Stitchers' Sake

Lois Norford



This was one of my mothers' favorite recipes. When she was feeling happy or just wanted to give my brothers and me a special treat, the house would be filled with the special smell these cookies always have when baking.

(Continued from page 53)

CHRISTMAS FROM VIRGINIA

Designed by Lois Norford
of For Stitchers' Sake

DMC Anchor*

▲ 730	845	olive, vy. dk.
△ 732	281	olive
♥ 815	44	garnet, med.
× 816	43	garnet
■ 838	1088	beige-brown, vy. dk.
◎ 839	1086	beige-brown, dk.
★ 830	277	olive, dk.
✱ 831	277	olive, med.
◇ 832	907	olive
bs 3371	382	black-brown
ecru	387	ecru
5282	701	metallic gold

Kreinik Blending Filament

032BF pearl

Mill Hill Antique Glass Beads

● 03024 mocha

Fabric: 9" x 8" (22cm x 20cm) piece

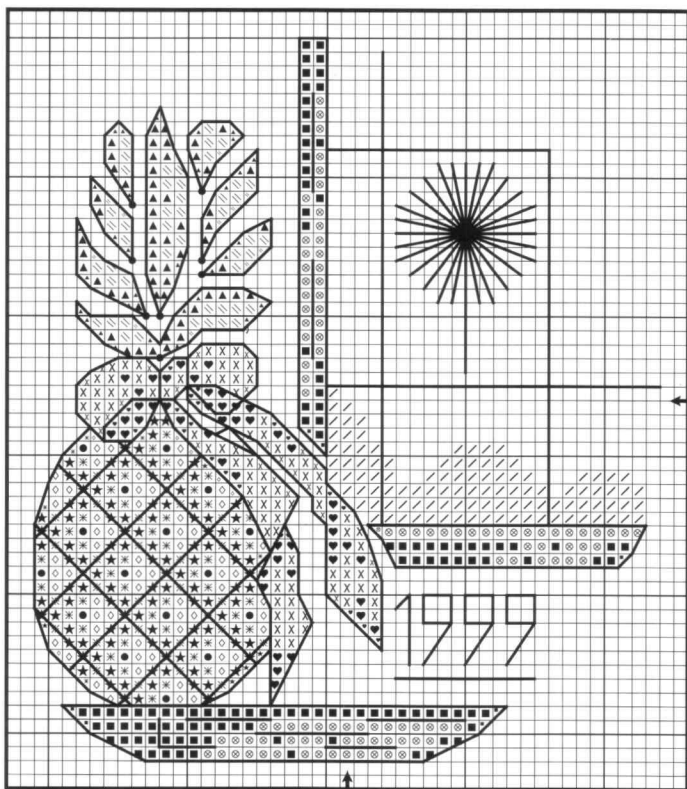
18-count Zweigart® tapestry green
Aida from Serendipity Designs

Stitch count: 52H x 45W

Design size: 3" x 2½" (7cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. Work half cross stitch where / appears, using one strand ecru/387 and one strand of blending filament. Backstitch (bs) using one strand 3371/382. Work star-eyelet stitch, using two strands 5282/701 for Step 1 and one strand 5282/701 for Step 2. Attach beads with a cross stitch, using one strand 3371/382. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 935/861. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. 5282/701 was added to twisted-cording ends, which were inserted into the opening of a ⅝" (16mm)-diameter metallic-gold ring and knotted.



© 1999 For Stitchers' Sake

CHRISTMAS FROM VIRGINIA

(Photo is on page 28. Color code is on page 54.)

From Merry's Heart

Merry Cox

About twenty years ago, a darling long-haired, white kitten appeared in our backyard. Our kids were around two and five years old at the time and, of course, immediately fell in love with this precious creature. We took him around the neighborhood to find his home, but soon we knew we found his home—ours!

Starlight, affectionately called "TarTar," was so friendly and loving to our whole family. We had a certain whistle that would bring him running. It was fun to whistle and then to listen because we could hear him jumping over backyard fences to respond.

One Christmas Eve, we were returning home from a wonderful evening with Grandma and Grandpa. We turned into our neighborhood, and there was Starlight. Dan stopped the car, and I jumped out to retrieve the cat. I got back in the car and started scolding the cat about being so far from home. Then as all was forgiven, we started giving him lots of attention. All of a sudden, my hand touched this strange collar—I realized the collar on this cat was not Starlight's collar. This was not Starlight! We went back to where we picked this cat up; and with proper apologies, I put the cat back. When we got back home, there was our Stalight at the back door waiting for his family.

SHARING THE SEASON

Designed by Merry Cox
of From Merry's Heart

The Caron Collection Soie Cristale

× 0076 blue, dk.

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

● 128 Serengetti

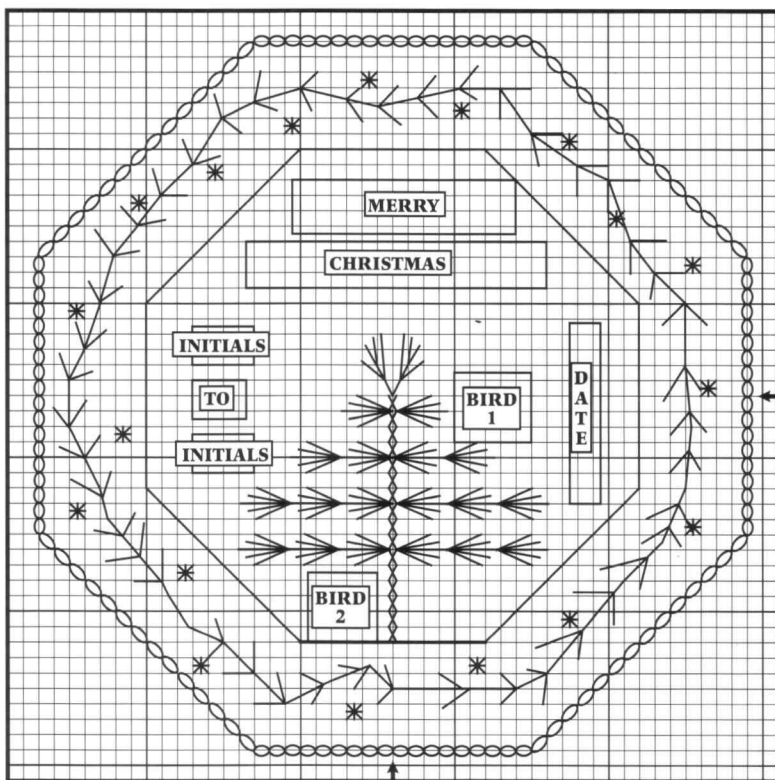
The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colors

074 in the burgundy
055 camouflage green

Fabric: 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 28-count champagne linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.
Stitch count: 46H x 46W
Design size: 3 1/3" x 3 1/3" (8cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Work chain stitch over two threads for border, using one strand 074. Work long stitch for wreath, using one strand 0076. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads where * appears, using one strand 0076. Work stem stitch over two threads for inner border, using one strand 074. Cross stitch *Merry Christmas* and birds over one thread, using one strand of floss. Work tent stitch over one thread for personalization, using one strand 128 and referring to alphabet chart on page 55. Work tent stitch over one thread and backstitch over one thread for date, using one strand 128. (**NOTE:** Outlines of over-one areas are for position only and are not to be backstitched.) Backstitch birds' feet over one thread, using one strand 128. Work closed herringbone stitch for tree trunk, using one strand 128. Backstitch tree branches over two threads, using one strand 055. Work long stitch for tree needles, using one strand 055. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: On another 7" x 7" (18cm x 18cm) piece 28-count champagne linen, work chain-stitch border for ornament back, using one strand 074. Cut two pieces of posterboard and two pieces of cotton quilt batting to fit inside chain-stitch border. Trim seam allowances to 3/4" (2cm) from chain-stitch border of ornament. Place one piece of posterboard atop wrong side of ornament. Fold seam allowances over posterboard; lace to hold in place. Repeat for ornament back. Place ornament front and ornament back with wrong sides together. Align chain-stitch borders and lace together through chain stitch, using two strands 074 and inserting loop



©1999 From Merry's Heart

SHARING THE SEASON

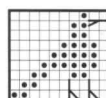
(Photo is on page 21.)



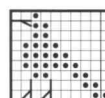
SHARING THE SEASON ALPHABET



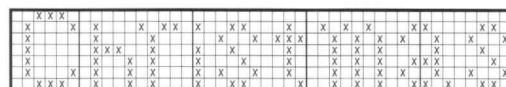
MERRY



BIRD 2



BIRD 1



CHRISTMAS



TO

From Merry's Heart
 Post Office Box 402
 Clovis, CA 93613

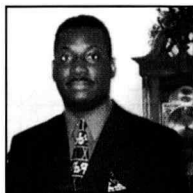


DATE

of 3/8" (9mm)-wide burgundy gros-grain ribbon at top of ornament for hanger. Tie a bow with ribbon and tack in place at base of hanger.

Graphworks International, Inc.

Norman Brown



This is a favorite holiday dessert at my home. I hope you enjoy it too.

Chocolate Cake with Chocolate Butter Icing

- 1 c. self-rising flour
- ¾ c. plus 2 Tbsp. superfine sugar
- ½ c. dry cocoa powder
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ¾ c. unsalted butter, softened
- 3 eggs
- 3 Tbsp. boiling water

Preheat oven to 350°. Butter and flour two 8" round layer-cake pans. Sift flour, sugar, cocoa, and baking powder into large mixing bowl. Stir until blended. Add butter, eggs, and boiling water. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer to blend, scraping sides of bowl often. Beat at high speed for 5 minutes. Spread evenly in cake pans. Bake at 350° for 25–28 minutes until cake pulls away from sides of pan and top springs back when lightly touched. Cool in pans 10 minutes. Remove from pans. Cool on racks.

Chocolate Butter Icing:

- ½ c. unsalted butter, softened
- 2 c. powdered sugar
- 1 Tbsp. dry cocoa powder
- 2 Tbsp. boiling water
- Walnut pieces to garnish

In small mixing bowl, combine butter, powdered sugar, cocoa, and boiling water. Beat at low speed to blend. Beat at medium

speed until smooth. Spread some icing between cake layers. Spread top of cake with remaining icing. Garnish with walnuts.

- bs 646 8581 beaver gray, dk.
- bs 221 897 pink, vy. dk.
- bs 783 307 gold

A MOUSY CHRISTMAS

Designed by Norman Brown
of Graphworks International, Inc.

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 18-count white Aida

Stitch count: 37H x 39W

Design size: 2 1/8" x 2 1/4" (5cm x 5cm)

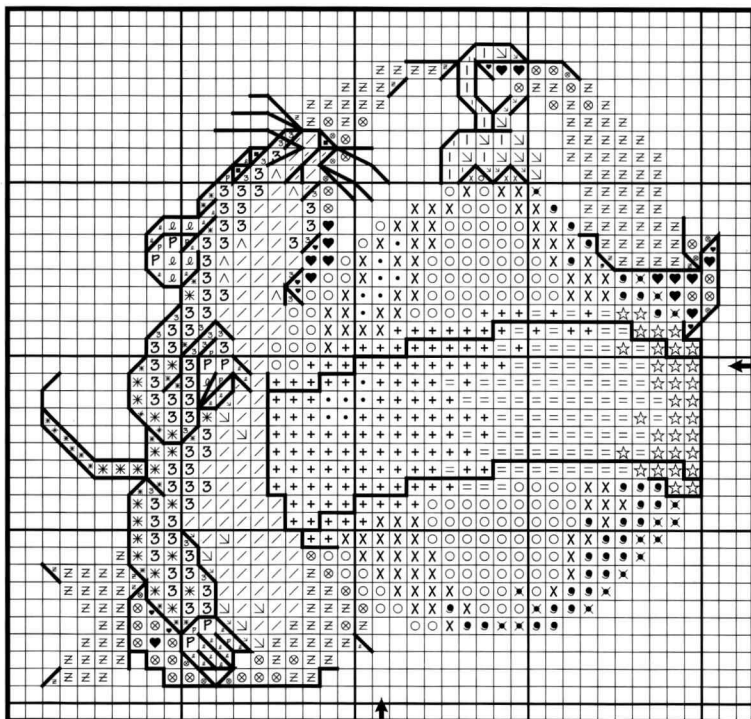
Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

- 3021 905 mouse (except for whiskers)
- 646 8581 whiskers, top of ornament
- 221 897 ribbon
- 783 307 yellow of ornament

Finishing instructions: Mount in round, plastic, ornament frame with 3" (8cm)-diameter opening.

Graphworks International, Inc.
106 Hidden Meadows Court
Greenbrier, TN 37073
e-mail: mary@graphworks.com
website: www.graphworks.com



(Photo is on page 23.)

A MOUSY CHRISTMAS

Handwork

Mary Riggs



Every year, my mother, older sisters, and I would spend a day close to Christmas making gingerbread boys (and girls). We would mix the dough in the morning and then mix, roll, cut, shape, decorate, and eat all afternoon. The shaping gave the cookies their character, with arms and legs posed for motioning, running, or modeling the outfits they would be decorated with. Their faces were painted with frosting or decorated with sprinkles and small candies. When my own three daughters

were young, we were living overseas in an American military community. Our neighbors became our families for the holidays, unless we were fortunate enough to have families visiting from the States. Each year, the girls and I would set aside an entire day for the "gingerbread party," and invite all the girls' friends to come and mix, cut, shape, decorate, and eat. Enjoy the recipe with your family—the larger the crowd, the better.

Gingerbread Boys

- ½ c. shortening
- ½ c. brown sugar
- ½ c. molasses
- ¾ c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. vinegar
- ½ c. sour milk

Cream shortening and add sugar gradually. Blend in molasses. Sift 1 ¼ c. flour with the soda, spices, and salt.

Stir into creamed mixture. Add vinegar. Alternately add remaining flour and sour milk, beginning and ending with flour. Chill dough and roll out ¼" thick on lightly floured board. Cut out boys and girls with cutters. Bake 10–15 minutes at 375°. Recipe may be doubled.

CHRISTMAS STARS

Designed by Mary Riggs
of Handwork

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- -0140 blue spruce
- × 0410 tarnished gold
- 0350 mulberry
- ▲ 0560 nutmeg

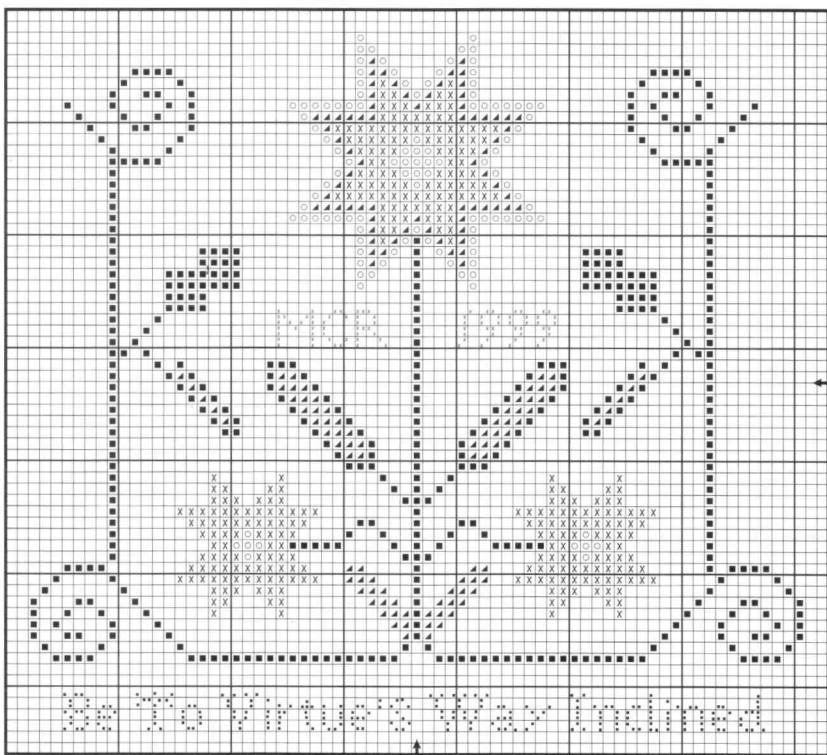
Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece
36-count barn owl hand-dyed linen
from Birds of a Feather
Stitch count: 62H x 69W
Design size: 3½" x 3¾" (9cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Cross stitch lettering, initials, and date over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using DMC 500 six-strand embroidery floss. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Tassel was made using DMC 500, 3829, and 3777 six-strand embroidery floss. Turn to page 92 for tassel-making how-tos.

Finished by
The Needlewoman East

Handwork
10175 Hillington Court
Vienna, VA 22182
e-mail: handworkmr@aol.com
website: handworksamplers.com



Heart In Hand Needleart

Cecilia Turner

Our family has a new holiday tradition! We tried it this last year for the first time, and it worked out so well that we decided to make it an annual event! The only problem is a big part of this tradition is that it must be kept a secret! So I can't tell you exactly what we did, or I'll ruin the tradition.

The concept is to play Santa for someone. You pick your recipient and do something nice for him or her in secret. You must not let that person or anyone else know what you have done.

You might buy a week's groceries for someone in need, put the groceries on the doorstep, ring the doorbell, and run! Plant spring bulbs in the yard of elderly persons who might not be able to do it for themselves. Do it while they

are away from home one day and imagine the surprise on their faces as they watch the bulbs grow and blossom in the spring! You may not claim responsibility for your deed. That's the hard part! You'll be dying to tell!

Our family so enjoyed carrying out our Santa surprise last year. I can't wait to see what we come up with for 1999. Half the fun is deciding what to do.

Join us this year. Treat someone you know, or someone you don't know, to a gift from Santa!

STARSHINE

Designed by Cecilia Turner
of Heart In Hand Needleart

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- 0140 blue spruce
- ✱ 0360 cranberry
- 1150 flax
- 0410 tarnished gold
- 0150 evergreen

Just My Imagination Buttons

- 314L golden large star (2)
- ★ 312L evergreen large star

Fabric: 9" x 10" (23cm x 25cm) piece 32-count natural linen/silk from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 49H x 63W
Design size: 3½" x 4" (8cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads where large ✱ appears, using two strands 0360. Attach buttons, using two strands of matching floss.

Special instructions:

NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

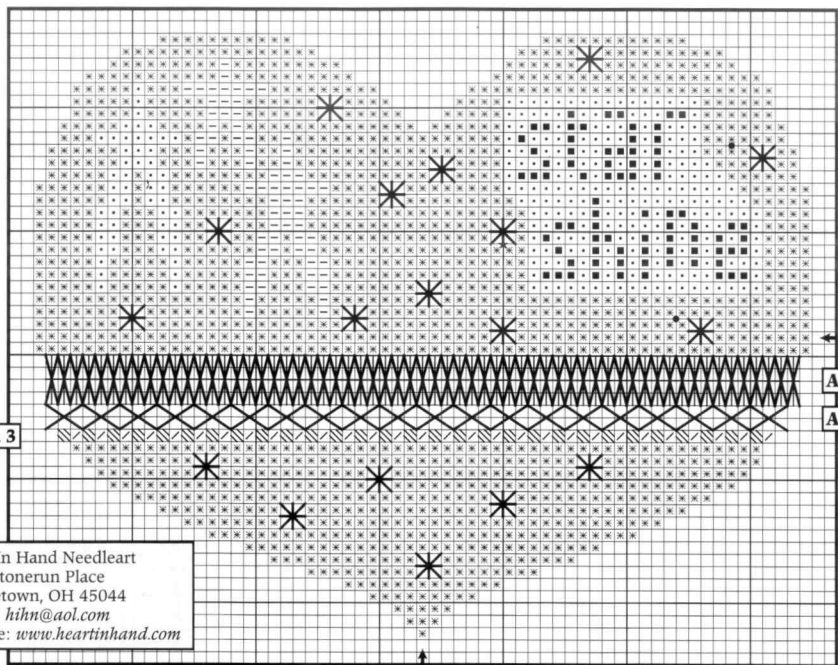
Area 1—Work elongated Smyrna cross stitch, using two strands 0140.

Area 2—Work wide cross stitch, using two strands 0150.

Area 3—Beginning at left edge of ornament, work Scotch-stitch squares, using two strands 0150 and alternating with two strands 0140.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Bias hanger and piping were made using complementary fabric. Twisted-cording was made using DMC 501 Coton Perlé #5. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Finished by Sew It Seams



Heart In Hand Needleart
7215 Stonerun Place
Middletown, OH 45044
e-mail: hihn@aol.com
website: www.heartinhand.com

(Photo is on page 10.)

STARSHINE

The Heart's Content, Inc.

Maureen Appleton



The Best Carmels (From the kitchen of Mary Beth Golden, Maureen's sister)

2 c. brown sugar
2 c. white sugar
2 c. light Karo® syrup
¼ tsp. salt
¾ lb. butter
1 can sweetened condensed milk

Combine ingredients in a large saucepan and cook on the stove to 245°, then immediately pour into 9" x 13" buttered pan. Be very accurate with the candy thermometer; remove from heat just before 245°. Cool, cut, and wrap.

REINDEER

Designed by Maureen Appleton
of The Heart's Content, Inc.

DMC Anchor®

○ 437	362	tan, lt.
> 746	275	off white
■ 3031	905	mocha, vy. dk.
★ 433	358	brown, med.
✓ 739	366	tan, ul. lt.
× 436	363	tan
● 434	310	brown, lt.

Fabric: 8" x 9" (20cm x 23cm) piece 26-count natural linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 44H x 86W

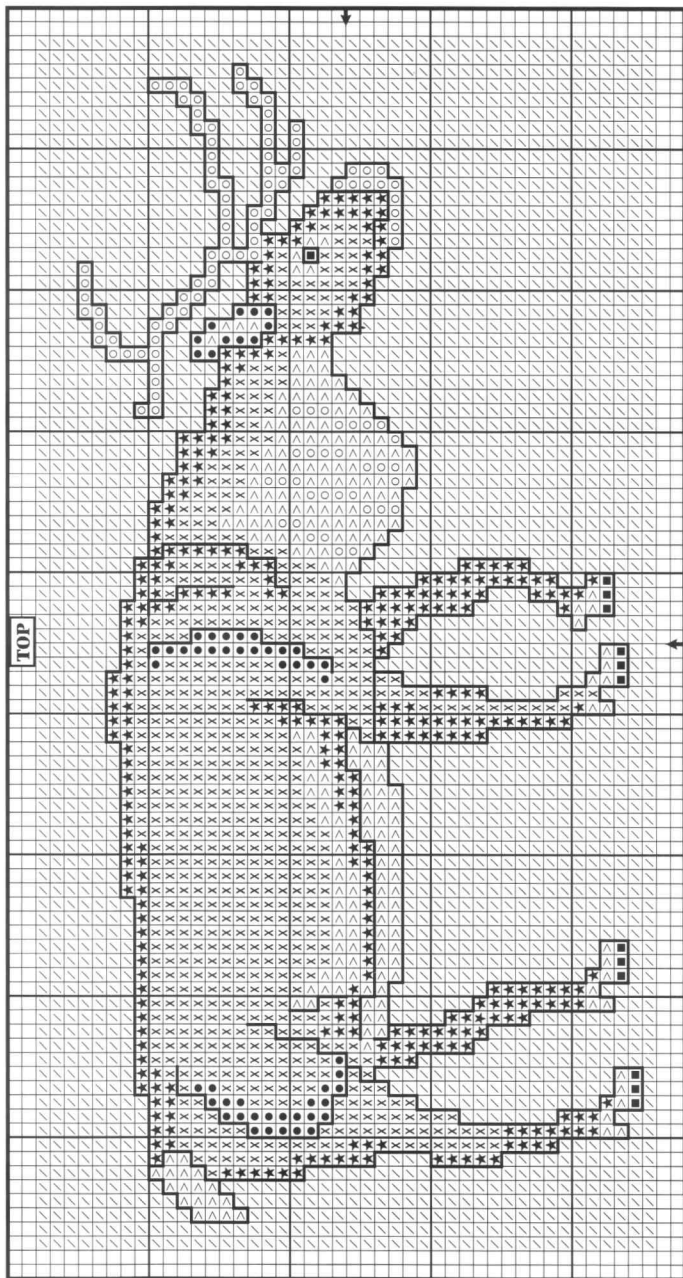
Design size: 1¾" x 3½" (4cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Backstitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

3031 905 reindeer
434 310 border

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Piping was made using backing fabric.



The Heart's Content, Inc.
4440 Indian Trail
Green Bay, WI 54313
e-mail: hrtcntnt@netnet.net

REINDEER
(Photo is on page 22.)

©1999 The Heart's Content, Inc.

Heritage Series

Margot Cook

There are two special times for us at Christmas. The first is unpacking all the ornaments collected over the years and decorating the tree. As each treasure is unwrapped and hung, we reminisce about its origins—either who gave it to us or made it, or where we bought it (usually on a trip or for a special occasion).

The second is the gathering of all the family around the piano for carols and seasonal songs after we've stuffed ourselves with great food. Our voices are not ready for the recording studio, but we truly enjoy the singing and harmony that only family and friends can provide.

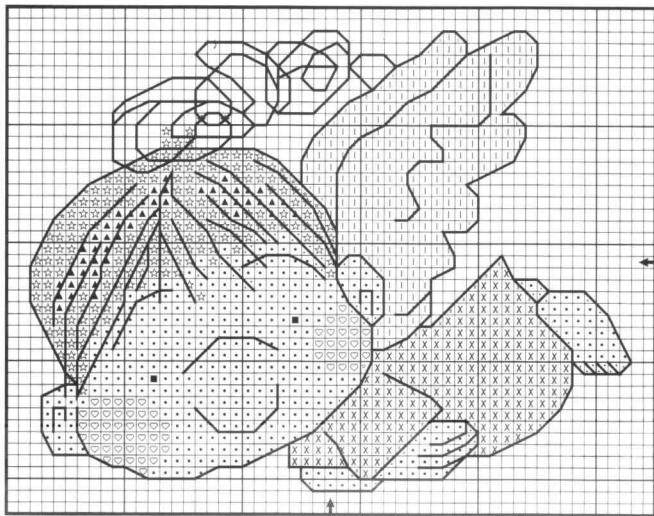


MARTY LINKS KIDLINKS™ ANGEL

Designed by Margot Cook
of Heritage Series

DMC	Anchor*	
♥ 353	6	peach flesh
☆ 725	305	topaz
▲ 783	307	gold

Heritage Series
1603 Myrtle Road
Silver Spring, MD 20902



MARTY LINKS KIDLINKS™ ANGEL (Photo is on page 17.)

• 948	1011	peach flesh, vy. lt.
■ 839	380	beige-brown, dk.
× 775	128	baby blue, lt.

Kreinik Fine Braid #8

| 032 pearl

Fabric: 7" x 8" (18cm x 20cm) 14-count piece white Aida

Stitch count: 39H x 51W

Design size: 2 7/8" x 3 3/8" (7cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using three strands of floss or one strand of fine braid. Backstitch using one strand 839/380.

Finishing instructions: Trim ornament approximately 1" (25mm) from stitched design. Place ornament and 5" x 6" piece backing fabric with wrong sides together; pin in place. Using white fabric glue and a toothpick and beginning at top of ornament, apply a thin layer of glue to cover stitches closest to edge as well as two squares of fabric beyond stitching, leaving an opening at bottom for stuffing and removing pins. Press together and allow to dry. Insert a small amount of polyester or cotton stuffing into opening and glue opening closed. After glue has dried, trim excess fabric to within two fabric squares of stitching, following shape of stitching. Hanger was made using Kreinik 002 Very Fine Braid #4.

Hillside Samplings

Lesley Rudnicki



The one tradition every family with children has is leaving some food out for Santa on Christmas Eve. In this photo, I was about four years old, and you can see on the plate my brother is putting on the mantle that in our house Santa also liked getting a sandwich along with his cookie and milk. After I had children of my own, Santa's taste changed; and my three boys always put out cookies, milk, and carrots for the reindeer. Santa wasn't into the sandwich anymore.

Christmas Cut-Out Cookies

- 1/4 c. shortening
- 1/4 c. margarine
- 3/4 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla
- 1/2 tsp. grated orange rind
- 2 c. sifted flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 4 tsp. milk

Cream shortening, margarine, and sugar. Add egg and beat until light and fluffy. Add vanilla and orange rind. Sift dry ingredients, stir into creamed mixture together with milk.

Roll 1/8" thick. Cut out. Bake at 350° for 7–10 minutes.

Frost with a powdered sugar and milk glaze. Sprinkle with colored sugar or decorate as desired.

Hillside Samplings
1927 Lapham Road
East Aurora, NY 14052

Finishing Instructions

GENERAL FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Cording or trim (NOTE: See Step 2 to determine length needed.)
 Backing fabric to complement or match cross-stitch fabric
 Thread to match fabrics and cording or trim
 Hand-sewing needle
 Transparent fabric glue (optional)
 Tape measure Ruler
 Steam iron Scissors

NOTE: Please read all instructions carefully before beginning.

1. Press stitched piece from back, straightening fabric as much as possible. **NOTE:**

A COOKIE FOR SANTA

Designed by Lesley Rudnicki of Hillside Samplings

Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

● 128 Serengeti

Trebizond	DMC
Silk Thread	Coton Perlé #5
TRA 896	938 cinnamon brown

Fabric: 4½" x 4½" (12cm x 12cm) piece 35-count dark cappuccino linen from R & R Reproductions

Some flosses and threads cannot be washed or even ironed with steam. Please refer to manufacturer's instructions before laundering stitched piece or before ironing.

2. Measure circumference of finished ornament and add 8" (20cm) for hanger to this measurement to determine the length of cording or trim for each ornament.

3. When attaching cording, secure cut ends with stitches or transparent fabric glue. Blindstitch cording to ornament, using sewing thread to match cording and concealing cut ends.

ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Self-adhesive padded mounting board
 Hot-glue gun or craft glue (optional)

Stitch count: 64H x 67W

Design size: 1⅞" x 2" (5cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Work rounded Rhodes stitch over six threads for chocolate chips, using one strand TRA 896/938. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions above. Twisted-cording trim was made using 128. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

1. Cut two pieces of mounting board to desired ornament size [⅞"-1" (3mm-2.5cm) larger than stitching is typical].

2. Center stitched ornament on one piece of mounting board, following manufacturer's instructions. Repeat on other piece of mounting board for backing fabric.

3. With wrong sides together, blind stitch or glue backing to ornament.

4. Attach trim, hanger, and other embellishments.

PILLOW-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Polyester stuffing Straight pins
 Fabric-marking pencil
 Sewing machine (optional)

NOTE: Use a ½" (13mm) seam allowance.

1. Measure desired distance [⅞"-1" (3mm-2.5cm) is typical] from stitching on all sides and use fabric-marking pencil to draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together along edge of stitching.

2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving an opening at bottom of ornament to turn. Trim all layers to seam allowances of ¼" (7mm). Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛" (3mm).

3. Turn ornament to right side, fill with polyester stuffing, and sew opening closed.

4. Attach trim, hanger, and other embellishments, using blindstitch and matching thread.

FLAT-ORNAMENT FINISHING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Padded mounting board (Heavy mat board and iron-on fusible fleece can be substituted.)
 Fabric-marking pencil
 Straight pins
 Sewing machine (optional)

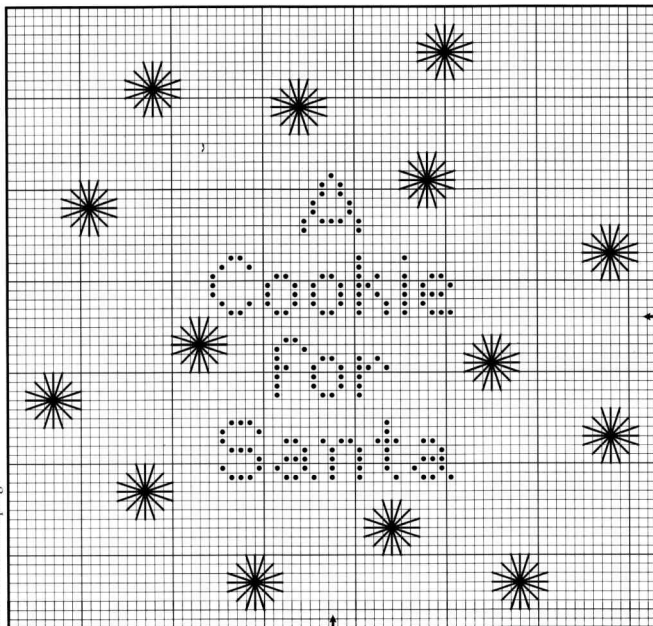
NOTE: Use a ½" (13mm) seam allowance.

1. Measure desired distance [⅞"-1" (3mm-2.5cm) is typical] from stitching on all sides and use marking pencil to draw a line this distance from edge of design all around, staying on grain-line of fabric when possible. Do **not** cut fabric. Place ornament over a piece of backing fabric (right sides together) and pin layers together along edge of stitching.

2. Sew around ornament along drawn line, leaving bottom of ornament open. Trim all layers to seam allowances of ¼" (7mm). Trim corners to seam allowances of ⅛" (3mm). Turn ornament to right side.

3. Using ornament as a pattern, cut mounting board. Insert mounting board into ornament and sew opening closed.

4. Attach trim, hanger, and other embellishments, using blindstitch and matching thread.



(Photo is on page 19.)

A COOKIE FOR SANTA

Cheese Straws

1 stick (½ c.) butter, softened
1 lb. sharp cheese, grated
1 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. red pepper
1 tsp. salt
2 c. flour

Sift together into a large bowl flour, baking powder, red pepper, and salt. In a medium bowl, combine butter and cheese. Work butter and cheese into flour mixture. Place in cookie press and squeeze onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 325° for 10–12 minutes.

Stitch count: 32H x 32W
Design size: 2½" x 2½" (6cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads for star at top of each tree, using two strands 725/305. Work French knot where ● appears at intersecting grid lines, using two strands blanc/2. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch instructions:

336	150	alphabet
3346	267	tree
blanc	2	snowflakes (two strands)

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and tassel were made using 3346/267 and 304/19. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Turn to page 92 for tassel-making how-tos.

Stitched by Marilyn Allison

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT FOB

Designed by Judy Gibbs
of Hollie Designs

DMC Anchor*

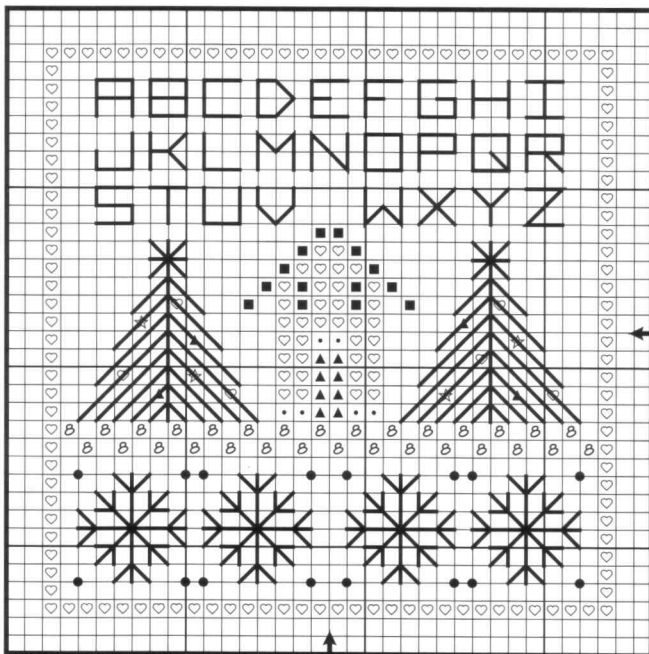
• blanc	2	white
♥ 304	19	red, med.
■ 310	403	black
♢ 3346	267	hunter
▲ 336	150	navy
☆ 725	305	topaz

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 28-count natural raw Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Hollie Designs
3004 Heathgate Road
Charlotte, NC 28226
e-mail: holliedes@aol.com
website: www.holliedesigns.com

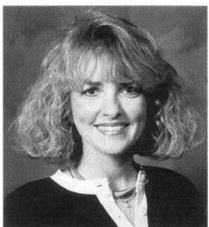
It is so very hard to think of just one Christmas memory! I have taught my children the value of their imagination. I think that believing in the spirit of Christmas is a year-round tradition. I collect Santas, and they are out all year long. I also have a collection of angels that stays out as well. Before Reid and I were married, someone gave us a Christmas-tree-ornament wedding shower. I firmly believe that shower started the tradition of our family's Christmas. Every year we add a new ornament to our original collection. We have always given each child an ornament for his or her first Christmas. Our children cherish the night that we decorate our tree. Each child has certain ornaments that he or she places on the tree every year. They know that one day when they marry, their ornaments will be given to them so that they can start their first Christmas in their family with ornaments that have such warm and wonderful memories. I believe that the spirit of Santa Claus lives in my family all year long!

A favorite Christmas treat at our house is my mom's cheese straws.



Homespun Elegance Ltd.

Sandra J. Sullivan



BEARING WREATH SNOWMAN

Designed by Sandra J. Sullivan
of Homespun Elegance Ltd.

DMC	Anchor*	
o 300	352	mahogany, vy. dk.
■ 3371	382	black-brown
- 712	926	cream
ck 501	878	blue-green, dk.
ss 402	1047	mahogany, vy. lt.

Homespun Elegance Ltd. Buttons
PB pearl bird

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 28-count amber linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 35H x 27W

Design size: 2½" x 2" (6cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work colonial knot (ck) where ● appears to fill wreath area, using three strands 501/878. Work straight stitch (ss), using two strands of floss. Attach button to center of snowman so that dark side is showing, using two strands 3371/382.

NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Straight-stitch (ss) instructions:
3371 382 hat band, mouth
402 1047 nose

Finishing instructions: Trim stitched ornament to within ½" (13mm) of running-stitch border. Cut another piece of linen the same size for back. Put the two pieces together, wrong sides facing. Insert a small piece of quilt batting. Pin securely on all four sides so linen will not slip, aligning the grain of both pieces. Work running-stitch border around perimeter of ornament through both pieces of linen, using two strands 501/878. Fringe on all sides to within about two threads of running stitch. Hanger was made using jute twine.

Homespun Elegance Ltd.
11047 Pierson Dr., Suite I
Fredericksburg, VA 22408
e-mail: Stitching@HomespunElegance.com
website: <http://www.HomespunElegance.com>

More than a few years ago, I belonged to an organization called the Junior Board of Historic Fredericksburg. We were a group of "crazy" young women who did an enormous amount of work for our city. The major money-maker was the annual Christmas candlelight tour. Not only did we decorate the homes, but we also prepared the food that was served to the thousands of people who attended. One of the favorite items served was glazed pecans.

It is also a favorite holiday treat for my family and friends. They are unbelievably fattening, but we seem to overlook this during the holidays. They make great gifts if you can keep from eating them yourself. They do freeze well, so you can make them ahead of time. Package them in an airtight container with wax paper between the layers. Happy baking and stitching!

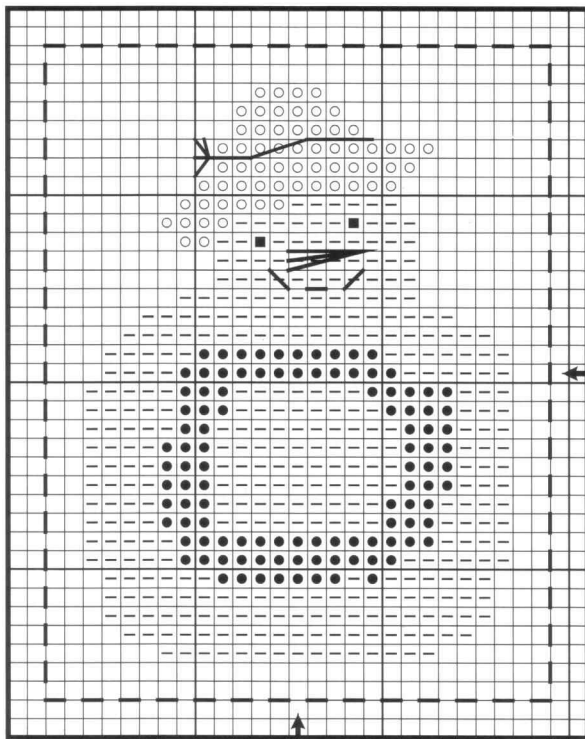
Glazed Pecans

- 2 egg whites
- 1 c. sugar
- Pinch of salt
- 3 c. pecan halves
- 1 stick (½ c.) butter or margarine, melted

Preheat oven to 350°. In a chilled bowl, beat egg whites until stiff. Slowly add sugar and salt. Gently fold in pecans until they are well coated.

Pour melted butter into a 13" x 9" shallow glass casserole dish. Be sure to have the pecans in only one layer. Place in oven. Stir every 10 minutes. Cook a total of 30 minutes.

Remove from oven and immediately pour onto a cookie sheet. Using a wooden spoon, gently separate the pecans. If you do not do this immediately, they will stick together in a hard clump.



BEARING WREATH SNOWMAN

(Photo is on page 24.)

Imagining, Inc.

Diane Arthurs

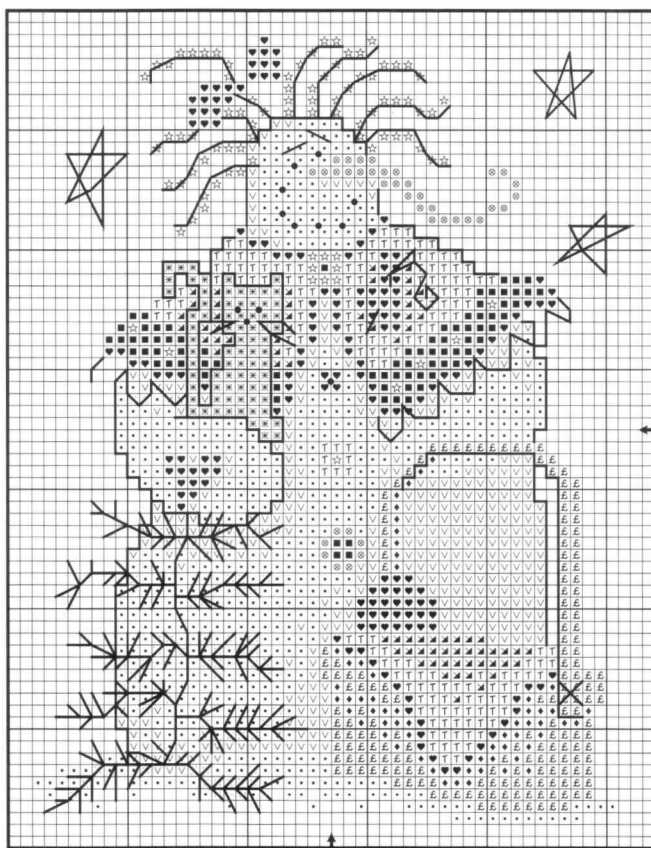


Christmas traditions began early in my childhood. My mother would prepare special foods and cookies just for the holiday season. But the tradition we laugh and joke about the most is picking out the Christmas tree. My father always had to have (and still seeks) the "perfectly" shaped Christmas tree. The experience is like the movie "Christmas Vacation." We would spend hours traveling from lot to lot, in rain, sleet, and snow, seeking out the tree that was the straightest, most perfectly shaped. We'd bring it home, put it in the stand, trim, and tie the branches so they would lay just right. We would then painstakingly string the lights, add the ornaments, and delicately lay each strand of metal tinsel on every branch. The tree was always a work of art.

Today our Christmas trees are picked out in October on Columbus Day. It sounds crazy, but we make an afternoon out of it and don't have to trudge through bad weather. The whole family, which includes me, my husband, and two daughters, my mother and dad, sister, brother, their spouses, and children, all head out to a nearby tree farm where we tag four perfectly shaped Christmas trees. The day is usually warm, we have a lot of laughs together, and all the kids have a blast running around looking for "their" perfect tree. (Grandpa has taught them well.) The weekend after Thanksgiving, the tree is cut and ready to decorate.

My mother started her tradition when we were young of giving each of her children a unique ornament as a Christmas gift. Sometimes the ornament was handmade or from some far off place they had visited. When we left home and had our own Christmas trees to decorate, we had a box of exquisite ornaments. She has now continued the tradition of collecting and giving ornaments to all six of her grandchildren.

I began my own ornament tradition when I received three antique glass ornaments from my husband's grandmother. I didn't want to hang them on the Christmas tree for fear of breaking



(Photo is on page 24.)

SNOW FUN

them. I was gifted each year with more and more delicate glass ornaments. I wanted to display these beautiful ornaments without worry so I wired them all onto a 24-inch artificial pine wreath that hangs over our fireplace. The wreath's beauty with its 50 plus ornaments is dazzling, and every Christmas friends and family are always finding another unique glass ornament to add to our wreath's collection. Start a Christmas tradition with your family and watch the memories grow.

720	325	spice, dk.
730	845	olive, vy. dk.
869	375	hazelnut, vy. dk.
928	274	gray-green, lt.
13012	855	khaki, med.
3820	306	straw, dk.
3828	373	hazelnut brown
bs312	979	navy, lt.
bs895	1044	green, dk.

Just My Imagination Buttons

141 Di's cat

Fabric: 11" x 10" (28cm x 25cm) 28-count platinum Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 66H x 50W

Design size: 4 3/4" x 3 3/8" (12cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work French knot where ● appears for snow woman's eyes, mouth, and button, using two strands 310/403 and

SNOW FUN

Designed by Diane Arthurs
for Imagining, Inc.

DMC	Anchor®	
blanc	2	white
310	403	black
434	310	brown, lt.
498	1005	red, dk.

wrapping floss around needle once. Attach button to top of basket, using two strands of matching floss.

Backstitch instructions:

312	979	stars
895	1044	tree
869	375	basket
310	403	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 730/845, 3012/855, and 498/1005. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Finished by Judy VonStein

Imagining, Inc.
404 North Cleveland Avenue
Mogadore, OH 44260
e-mail: Imag8ing@aol.com
website: www.imaginating.com

In Splendid Detail, Ltd.

Catherine Reurs



I've made this Christmas bread for several years, and everyone loves it (including our cats and dogs!). It freezes well and is delicious toasted. While it bakes, my home fills with the Christmas "perfume" of pumpkin, cinnamon, and nutmeg. My husband and I put on some Christmas music and make fragrant tea to drink with warm slices of this bread straight from the oven. Yum!

Scrumptious Pumpkin Bread

- 4 eggs, well beaten
- 1 (14-oz.) can pumpkin
- ½ c. buttermilk
- ½ c. applesauce
- ¾ c. cold water
- 2¼ c. all-purpose flour
- 1 c. cornmeal
- 2½ c. sugar
- 1½ tsp. ground nutmeg
- 1½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1½ tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. baking soda
- ½ c. raisins (optional)
- ½ c. dried cranberries (optional)

Beat together eggs, pumpkin, buttermilk, applesauce, and water.

Sift flour, cornmeal, sugar, spices, and baking soda together.

Add dry ingredients (add raisins and cranberries now, if desired) to pumpkin mixture and mix well.

Grease five small loaf pans and pour batter into loaf pans. Bake bread at 350° for one hour, then lower temperature to 325° and bake for another 15 minutes.

Once cool, wrap with Christmas ribbon and colored cellophane or plastic wrap for delicious gifts.

BABY SNOWMEN TRIO

Designed by Catherine Reurs
of In Splendid Detail, Ltd.

- DMC Anchor®**
■ 310 403 black

- Madeira Silk Thread**
• white white
♥ 0511 red

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 14-count blue chiffon Aida from Wichel Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 37H x 34W

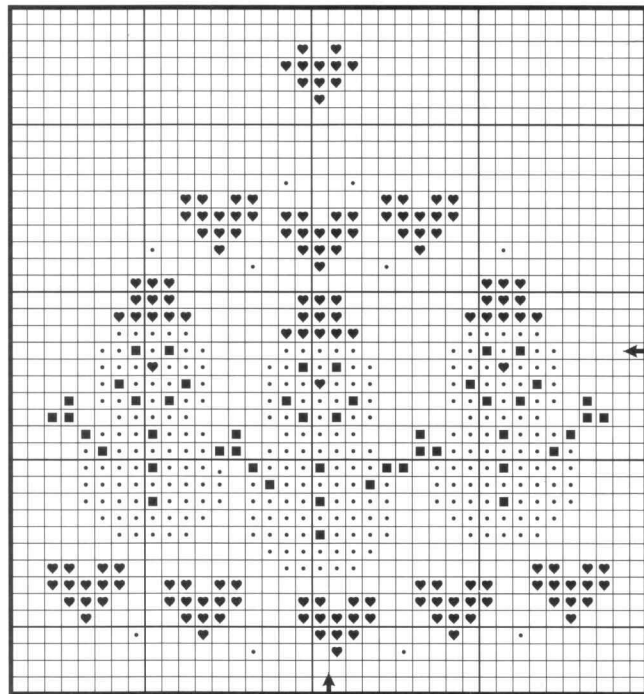
Design size: 2½" x 2½" (7cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using three strands of floss or one strand of silk thread.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using white. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. White pompom was purchased.

Stitched by Jill Reurs

In Splendid Detail, Ltd.
50 Marion Road
Watertown, MA 02472-4737



(Photo is on page 24.)

BABY SNOWMEN TRIO

JBW Designs

Judy Whitman



Baking for the holidays is a universal tradition for most families. And it's such fun to plan which recipes will be baked, decorated, shared, and enjoyed each year. My daughter and I usually review our favorites and select six to eight different varieties to bake.

The recipe below is for cookies that not only look festive with their bright-green filling but also contain chocolate. And as we all know, chocolate is essential in any good cookie recipe.

I also bake each January for the annual needlework market in Nashville, and the recipe is a favorite with hungry cross-stitch shop owners!

Chocolate Mint Sticks

Crust:

- ½ c. butter
- 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate
- 2 eggs
- 1 c. sugar
- ½ tsp. peppermint extract
- ½ c. flour
- ½ c. blanched almonds, chopped (optional)

Melt butter and chocolate together and cool. In a separate bowl, beat eggs and sugar until frothy. Add chocolate mixture, blending well. Stir in peppermint extract, flour, and

almonds. Spread into greased 9" square pan. Bake at 350° for 25–30 minutes.

Filling:

- 3 Tbsp. butter, softened
- 1½ c. powdered sugar, sifted
- 1–2 Tbsp. milk
- ½ tsp. peppermint extract
- 3–4 drops green food coloring

Cream butter and powdered sugar. Add milk and peppermint extract, beating to a smooth frosting consistency. Add food coloring, stirring well. Spread over cooled chocolate crust. Allow to set.

Glaze:

- 2 oz. semi-sweet chocolate
- 2 Tbsp. butter

Melt chocolate with butter. Cool slightly and spread or drizzle over top of filling. Refrigerate until set. Cut into small bars.

CHRISTMAS SLEIGH

Designed by Judy Whitman
of JBW Designs

DMC	Anchor*	
● 890	218	pistachio, ul. dk.
△ 320	215	pistachio, med.
⊗ 498	1005	red, dk.
♥ 815	44	garnet, med.
★ 319	1044	pistachio, vy. dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
1 002J Japan gold

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
X 00968 red

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) 30-count white Legacy linen from Access Com-modities

Stitch count: 27H x 38W

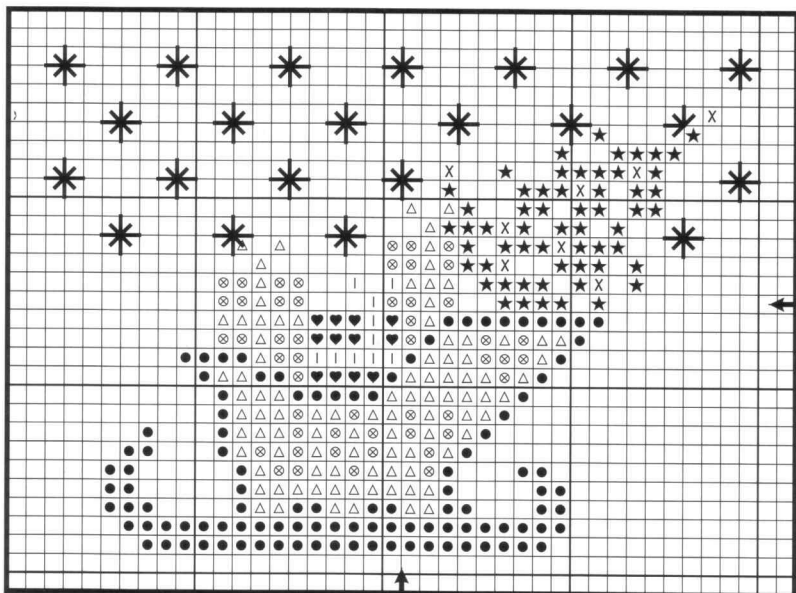
Design size: 1⅞" x 2⅝" (5cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. Work star stitch over four threads for stars, using one strand of very fine braid. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and tassel were made using 890/218 and very fine braid. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Tassel-making how-tos appear on page 92.

Finished by Kalagian Needlework Services

JBW Designs
7641 South Third Street
Mattawan, MI 49071
e-mail: JBW Whitman@aol.com
website: <http://www.jbwdesigns.com>



(Photo is on page 27.)

CHRISTMAS SLEIGH

Jemini Designs

Jeanette Rees

MILLENNIUM MEMORY (1000 STITCHES)

Designed by Jeanette Rees
of Jemini Designs

Rainbow Gallery Splendor® Silk

- ♥ S820 ruby red
- S942 green

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

42013 red red (5-6)

Mill Hill Glass Treasures

12197 matte dark emerald
medium holly leaf (2)

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 32-count antique tan Belfast® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 81H x 75W

Design size: 2⅞" x 2⅞" (6cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Attach holly leaves and beads where X appears at top of ornament, using one strand of matching floss and referring to photo on page 13 for placement.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using S820 and S942. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Jemini Designs
913 Gulf Breeze Parkway #35
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561



This is an old family recipe that my mother started making in the fifties before it became so popular as it is today. I still follow her recipe and only make it at Christmas.

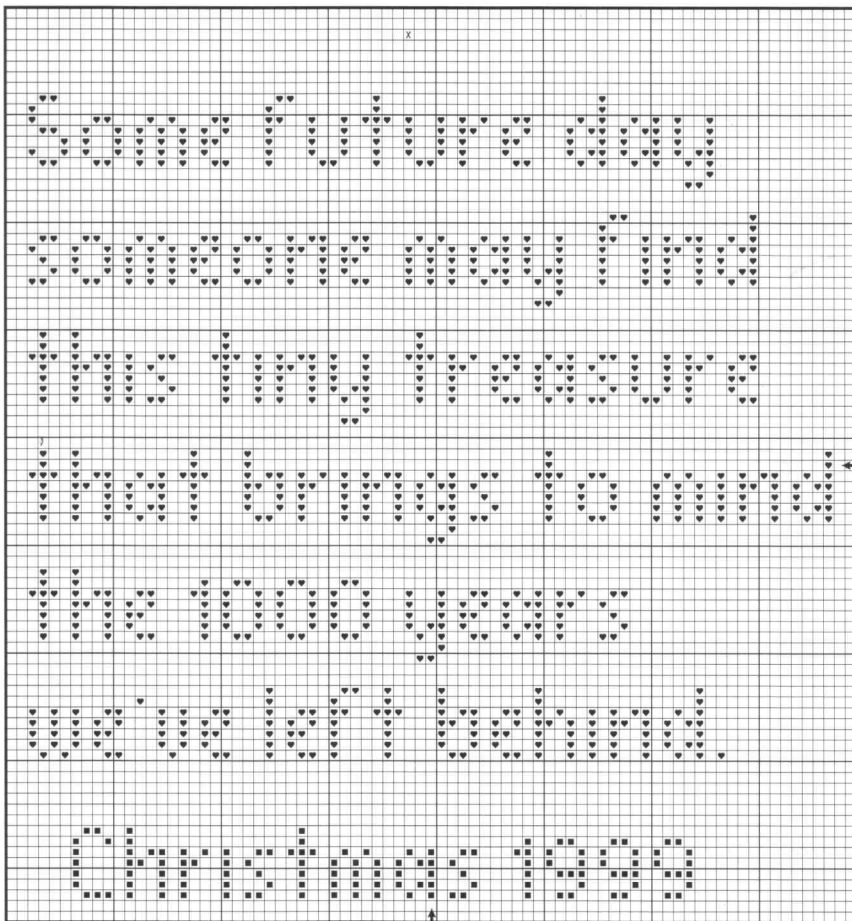
Party Mix (Sputniks)

- 1 box Wheat Chex®
- 1 box Rice Chex®
- 1 box Cheerios®
- 1 box thin pretzel sticks
- 1 lb. mixed nuts
- 2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 Tbsp. garlic powder
- 1½ Tbsp. onion powder

Mix cereals, pretzels, and nuts in a large, deep roasting pan. Set aside.

Melt butter in saucepan with Worcestershire sauce, garlic powder, and onion powder. Pour over other ingredients in roasting pan, stirring well. Bake at 250° about one hour (uncovered). Stir thoroughly every 10-15 minutes.

Store in Christmas tins—you will have plenty to both snack on during the holidays and some to give away to friends.



(Photo is on page 13.)

MILLENNIUM MEMORY (1000 STITCHES)



Just Nan, Inc.

Nan Caldera



The 1900s are drawing to a close, and soon we will be writing or stitching a "20" in front of each year. As you stitch your last Christmas ornaments of this century, gather some memories for future generations to share. Record your special moments and important dates on a small piece of paper, roll it up, and tuck it in this "Memory Stocking." Your memories of the century will now be part of every future Christmas tree. Best wishes for a very special Christmas!

MEMORY STOCKING

Designed by Nan Caldera
of Just Nan, Inc.

Au Ver A Soie

Soie d'Alger

△ 1714	932	antique blue, med.
☆ 3412	642	beige-gray, dk.
♥ 4625	902	garnet, vy. dk.
+ 4631	778	mauve, lt.
∇ 4634	316	mauve, med.
⊗ 4645	3726	mauve, med. lt.
ℓ 5023	502	blue-green
■ 5024	501	blue-green, dk.

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

○ 40123	cream
○ 40557	gold

Fabric: 28-count antique white linen ornament stocking (#PLL-51) from Linens & Lace

Stitch count: 65H x 48W

Design size: 4 3/8" x 3 1/2" (12cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand 35024/501. Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where large * appears in central vertical band, using two strands 4634/316 and pulling each leg to open hole in center of stitch. Work pulled eyelet stitch over four threads in ornament toe, using two strands 3412/642.

Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112. Blank area at top of design indicates placement of lace cuff of stocking and is not to be stitched. Stocking outline is for placement only and is not to be stitched.

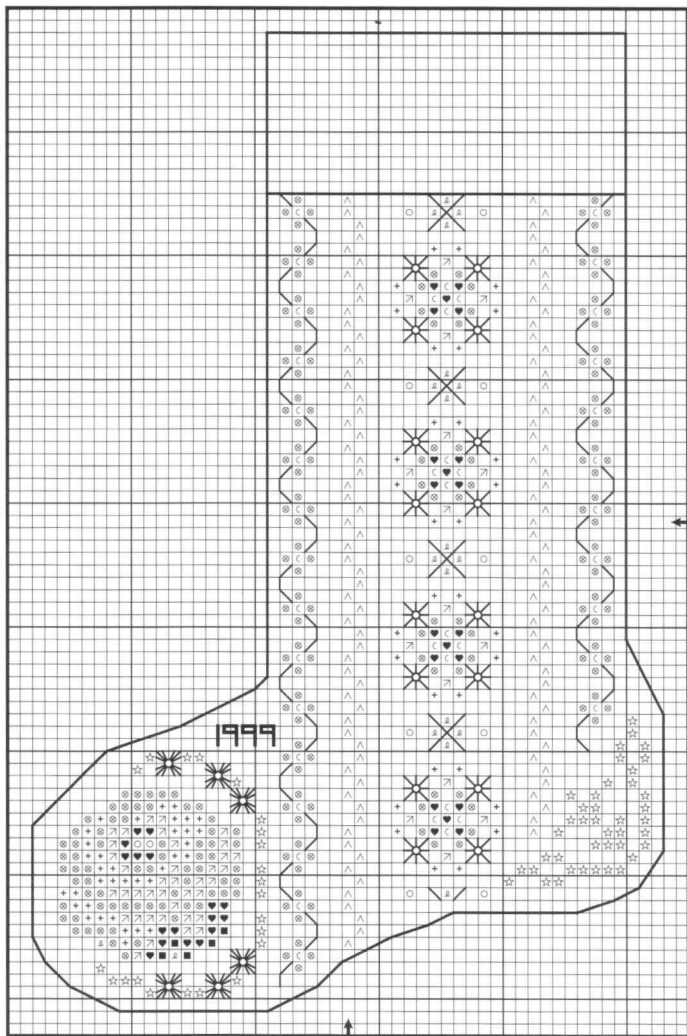
Finishing instructions: Finger press seam allowances to back and slipstitch remaining edges together, leaving top of stocking open. Tack down seam allowances behind lace cuff. Attach

Just Nan JNC06 Flutter Bead to cuff. Twisted-cording trim was made using Rainbow Gallery G802 Grandeur™ and Kreinik 002 Very Fine Braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Just Nan, Inc.

2300 Bethelview Rd, #110-402
Cumming, GA 30040

e-mail: nan@justnan.com
website: www.justnan.com



©1999 Just Nan, Inc.

MEMORY STOCKING

(Photo is on page 27.)

La Broderie

Linda P. Reeves



MERRY MILLENNIUM

Designed by Linda P. Reeves
of La Broderie

The Caron Collection Wildflowers

- ♥ 045 flame
- ✕ 083 pine forest
- 063 Black Forest

Kreinik Fine Braid #8 002 gold

- ✱ 42011 Victorian gold
- 40479 white

Access Commodities Attachments

- ☆ 425 yellow jade starshape

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 26-count ivory linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 41H x 38W

Design size: 3 1/4" x 3" (8cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of Wildflowers. Work half cross stitch over one thread for lettering and dates, using

one strand of Wildflowers. Work vertical satin stitch for tree trunk, using one strand 063. Work star stitch over eight threads and star stitch over four threads, using one strand of fine braid. Attach star to treetop, using one strand of matching floss. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. Work bead garland in the following manner, using one strand of matching floss: bring needle out where • appears on one side of tree at top; pick up first one 42011 and then two 40479; continue picking up beads in this order until desired length of garland is achieved; insert needle where • appears on opposite side of tree. Continue working bead garlands in this same manner down tree, tacking garlands as needed to stabilize. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Trim and tassels were purchased.

La Broderie
8312 Mecklenburg Court
Knoxville, TN 37923
e-mail: LaBroderie@worldnet.att.net

While cheesecake may not seem like a traditional Christmas dessert, my mom often had this wonderful treat made for me when I came home for the holidays from college. The recipe was given to us by our nextdoor neighbor, Betty, who knew that both Mom and I had a big sweet tooth! Get ready—this is a very rich dessert. Mom and I recommend that you just sit back with a cup of freshly brewed coffee, serve yourself a large helping, and enjoy!

Betty's Cheesecake

Crust:

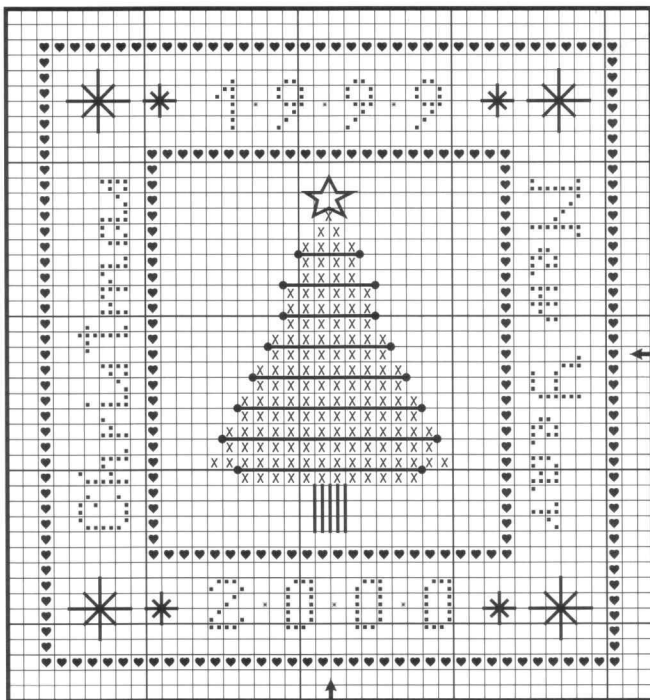
- 1 box vanilla wafers, crushed
- 1/4 c. chopped walnuts
- 1/2 tsp. cinnamon
- 1/2 c. butter, melted (no substitutes)

Mix and press into a lined 9" x 13" cake pan. Save 3 Tbsp. for topping.

Filling:

- 3 eggs, well beaten
- 2 (8-oz) pkgs. cream cheese (not the spreadable or low-fat kind)
- 1 c. sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 3 c. sour cream (not low fat)
- 2 tsp. vanilla

Mix all ingredients except sour cream until smooth. Blend in sour cream. Pour into crust; sprinkle top with saved vanilla-wafer mix. Bake at 375° for 40 minutes. Cool and then chill 4–5 hours. Topping is optional. (I recommend strawberries.)



(Photo is on page 12.)

MERRY MILLENNIUM

The Lilac Studio

Cindy Rice



ENGLISH HOLLY

Designed by Cindy Rice
of The Lilac Studio

DMC	Anchor®	
z 326	59	rose, vy. dp.
● 3345	268	hunter, dk.
x 3346	267	hunter
+ 3347	266	yellow-green, med.
o 3348	264	yellow-green, lt.
l 335	40	rose
■ 3371	382	black-brown
✓ 350	11	coral, med.
- 352	9	coral, lt.
. 353	8	peach flesh
⊗ 498	1005	red, dk.
∩ 776	24	pink, med.
♥ 815	44	garnet, med.
z 817	13	coral red, vy. dk.
◆ 895	1044	green, dk.
■ 902	897	garnet, vy. dk.
bs 310	403	black
bs 934	862	avocado black

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) 32-count white linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 70H x 62W

Design size: 4 3/8" x 3 7/8" (11cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

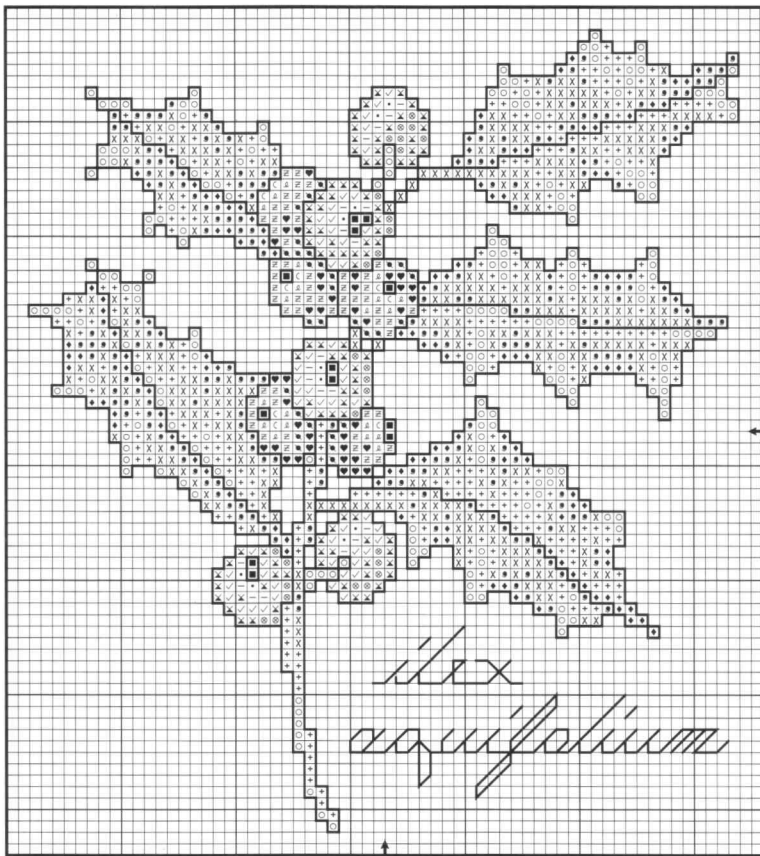
Backstitch instructions:

310	403	lettering
902	897	berries
934	862	remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Black bugle beads and small transparent-red bugle beads were strung for ornament trim. A string of small transparent-red bugle beads was attached at even intervals at the bottom of the ornament to create a scalloped fringe. Hanger was made using 7/8" (22mm)-wide red ribbon.

Since my husband and I have been married, we made it a tradition to pick and cut down our Christmas tree. We are fortunate to have two Christmas-tree farms a very short drive from our home. We usually go right after Thanksgiving so that we can enjoy the tree for the longest time possible. It is always so enjoyable walking amongst the trees trying to decide which one will look best. Every year the tree we've chosen has been beautiful, and it fills our home with the scent of freshly cut pine. This past Christmas, we took our then seven-month-old daughter, Frances. We bundled her up in her red fleece bunting, put her in her car seat, and drove off. She promptly fell asleep and stayed asleep throughout the whole excursion! We were quite surprised with this because she never sleeps through anything!

The Lilac Studio
Post Office Box 698
Lake Villa, IL 60046



(Photo is on page 26.)

ENGLISH HOLLY

Little By Little Design Co.

Cream first three ingredients in mixing bowl. Form mixture into balls. Place in refrigerator until hardened. Melt chocolate and dip balls in melted chocolate. Roll balls in nuts.

35-count dark espresso linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 65H x 57W

Design size: 3 3/4" x 3 1/2" (9cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Personalize using a favorite alphabet.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger was made using backing fabric.

MY LITTLE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Designed by Cynthia Daly Bradford of Little By Little Design Co.

DMC Anchor®

+ 3012	855	khaki, med.
▲ 935	861	avocado, vy. dk.
⊖ 732	281	olive
● 3777	1015	terra-cotta, vy. dk.
Σ 680	901	old gold, dk.
× 829	906	olive, vy. dk.

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece

Little By Little Design Co.
14610 Huntersville-Concord Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
e-mail: CDaly4692@aol.com

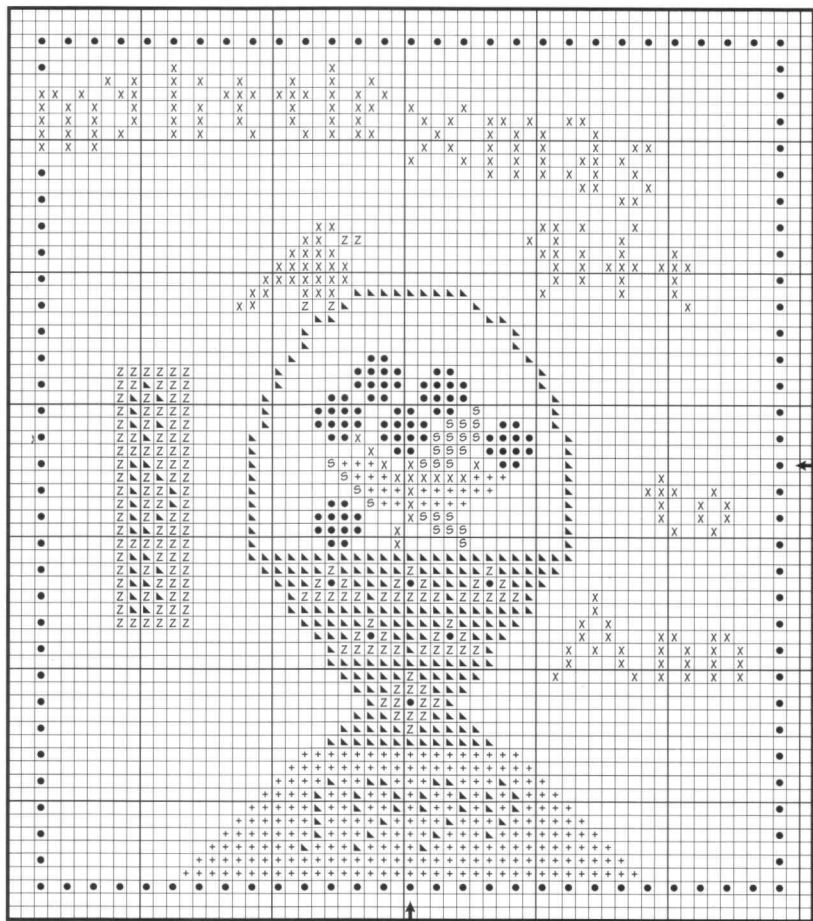


Cynthia
Daly
Bradford

Christmas is for giving to friends and family so I made an ornament for my dear friend Ann. Ann is 75 years young, and she is my needlework consultant and antiquing buddy. She is so kind to share her wisdom and knowledge with me. Ann gave me Christmas cookies for Christmas last year, and this is one of the cookies she made. Ann and I wish you a merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Ann's Peanut Butter Balls

- 1 c. crunchy peanut butter
- 1/4 c. powdered sugar
- 1/2 c. sweetened condensed milk
- Several blocks milk chocolate
- 1/2 c. chopped honey-roasted peanuts



(Photo is on page 21.)

MY LITTLE CHRISTMAS GIFT

Lizzie*Kate

Linda K. Ebright



Chocolate is the perfect way to celebrate any special occasion, and Christmas is no exception. My daughters, Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" (right) and Alison Kathleen "Kate" (left) used to get very excited when I put the large chocolate bars requested in this recipe in the grocery cart. Large quantities of chocolate do tend to excite young and old alike! These sweet treats are perfect for giving, packaged in a clear container. Grab a helper and start stirring.

Melt-in-Your-Mouth Chocolate Balls

- 3 very large chocolate bars with almonds
- 1 (12-oz.) container frozen whipped topping
- Crushed vanilla wafer cookies

Melt chocolate bars and gently stir in whipped topping. Drop by teaspoonfuls into crushed cookies and roll to coat. Store in refrigerator. Eat often!

LOVE WAS BORN

Designed by Linda K. Ebright
of Lizzie-Kate

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- ♥ 0310 claret
- × 0150 evergreen
- 0420 gold leaf
- 0240 midnight
- 1140 oatmeal
- + 0710 pink azalea
- z 1130 wood smoke
- 0730 cameo pink
- bs 1040 black crow

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
☆ 00146 light blue

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 32-count natural light linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

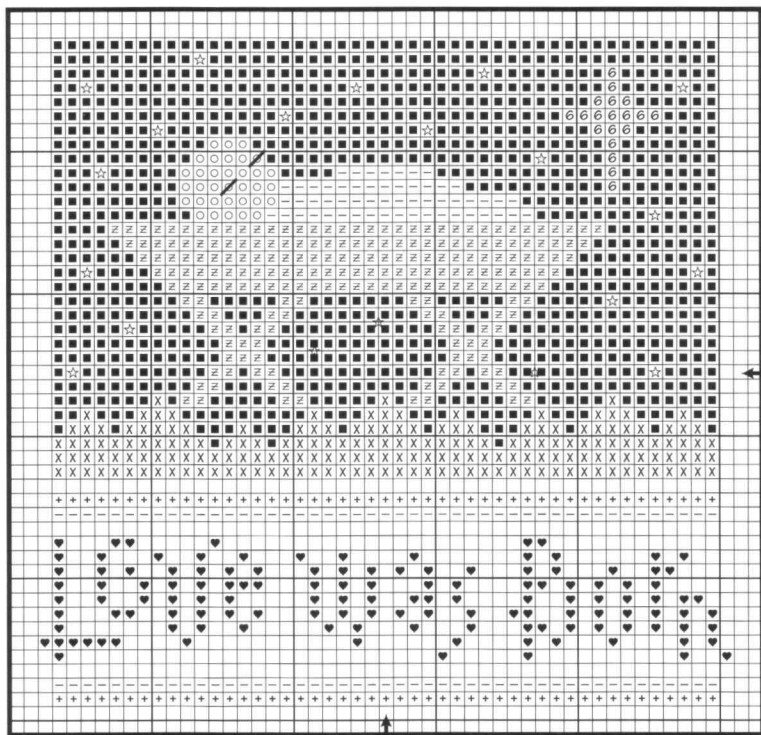
Stitch count: 47H x 49W

Design size: 3" x 3 1/8" (7cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch eyes, using one strand 1040. Attach beads, using two strands of matching floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Ruffled piping was made using backing fabric. Gold-braid trim was purchased.

Lizzie*Kate
2901 Oriole
Wichita, KS 67204
e-mail: LizKat98@aol.com



(Photo is on page 14.)

LOVE WAS BORN

Lorri Birmingham Designs

Lorri Birmingham



Tiramisu

Cake:

¼ c. butter
¼ c. milk
2 eggs
¾ c. sugar
¾ c. flour
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. vanilla
¾ c. hot strong coffee
1 Tbsp. sugar

Topping:

8 oz. cream cheese
8 oz. mascarpone cheese
½ c. powdered sugar
2 Tbsp. dark rum
1 pt. whipping cream
½ oz. grated semi-sweet chocolate
for garnish

Heat oven to 375°. Spray 13" x 9" pan with a non-stick cooking spray. In a small saucepan, heat butter and milk until steaming hot.

Meanwhile, in a large bowl, beat eggs at high speed until light. Gradually beat in ¾ c. sugar; beat an additional 2 minutes. Lightly spoon flour, baking powder, salt, vanilla, and hot milk mixture; beat at low speed until smooth. Pour into sprayed pan.

Bake 14–16 minutes or until cake springs back when touched lightly in center. In a 1-c. measuring cup, combine coffee and 1 Tbsp. sugar; mix well. Drizzle over warm cake. Cool 30 minutes or until completely cooled.

In a large bowl, mix cream cheese, mascarpone cheese, powdered sugar, and rum. In a medium bowl, beat whipping cream until stiff peaks form. Fold into cream-cheese mixture until combined. Spread evenly on cake. Sprinkle grated chocolate over top of cake. Cover; refrigerate at least 4 hours or overnight.

CHRISTMAS HEART

Designed by Lorri Birmingham
of Lorri Birmingham Designs

DMC Anchor*
x ecru 387 ecru

Mill Hill Antique Seed Beads
● 03021 royal pearl

Birdhouse Enterprises
Gold-Plated Brass Charms
♥ heart with bow

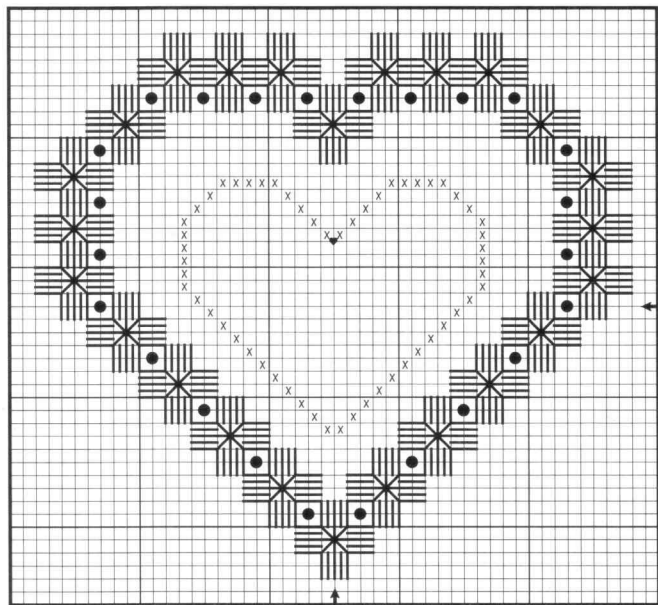
Fabric: 6" x 6" (15cm x 15cm) piece 28-count antique white Lugana® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 42H x 46W
Design size: 3" x 3½" (8cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work Kloster blocks, using two strands ecru/387. Work eyelet stitch over four thread where large ♥ appears, using one strand ecru/387 and pulling each leg. Work four-sided stitch over two threads to fill area between cross stitches and Kloster blocks, using one strand ecru/387 and pulling each leg. Attach beads, using one strand ecru/387. Attach charm, using one strand ecru/387. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Cording and tassel were purchased.

CHRISTMAS HEART PATTERN

Lorri Birmingham Designs
4 North Church Lane
Queensbury, NY 12804



(Photo is on page 26.)

CHRISTMAS HEART

LS Designs

Lesla Steele



Hearty Corn Potato Chowder

- 1/2 lb. salt pork, diced, or 6 strips of bacon
- 1 c. yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 c. celery, chopped
- 1 c. potatoes, peeled and diced
- 2 c. chicken stock
- 6 c. corn kernels (fresh is best!)
- 1/4 c. roasted red sweet peppers
- 1/2 tsp. tarragon
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Tabasco sauce (optional)
- 1/2 c. heavy cream

In large pan, fry salt pork or bacon until almost crisp. Add onion and celery. Sauté until onions are transparent.

Add potatoes and chicken broth. Bring to a boil and cover. Reduce heat and simmer until potatoes are tender (about 15 minutes). Add remaining ingredients and continue simmering for approximately 15 minutes.

If you prefer a not so chunky style soup, this may be put in a blender or food processor. Also, experiment with spices (rosemary is delicious) and meats (smoked sausage, ham, lobster, etc.). Add some cheese if desired. This is a versatile recipe.

LS Designs
e-mail: lsdesign@injersey.com

LESJA'S MINI BELLPULL ORNAMENT

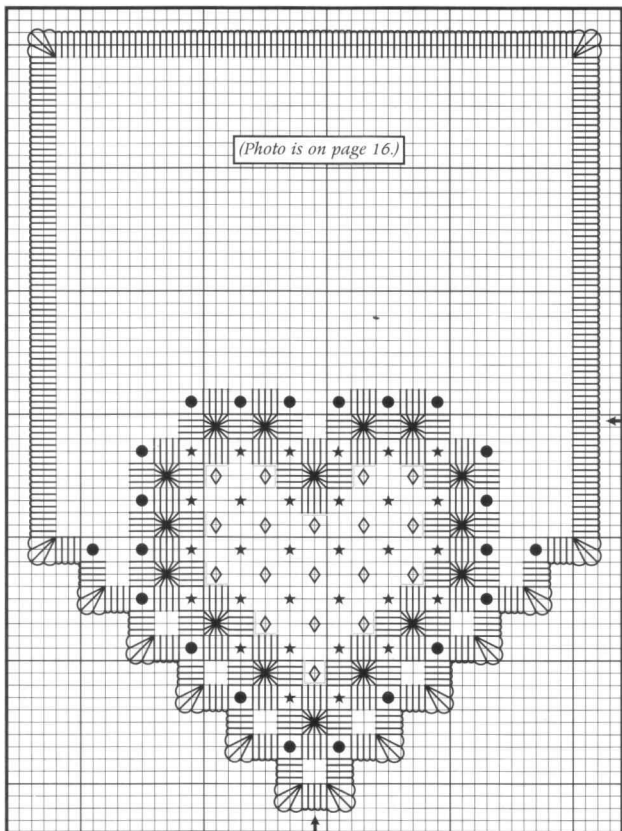
Designed by Lesla Steele
of LS Designs

DMC Coton Perlé #8 and #12
ecru ecru

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
002 gold

Kreinik Cord
002C gold

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads
• 00557 gold



LESJA'S MINI BELLPULL ORNAMENT-TOP LAYER

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads
★ 40123 cream

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 32-count antique white Belfast® linen from Zweigart® (top layer); 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 32-count teal green Belfast® linen from Zweigart® (bottom layer)

Stitch count:

Top layer 63H x 46W

Bottom layer 87H x 46W

Design size:

Top layer 4" x 27/8" (10cm x 7cm)

Bottom layer 5 1/2" x 27/8" (14cm x 7cm)

Special instructions:

NOTE: Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Top layer—Work buttonhole-stitch border, using one strand of cotton perlé #12. Work Kloster blocks, using one strand of cotton perlé #8. Work eyelet stitch over four threads where large ✱ appears, using one strand of very

fine braid and pulling each leg. Cut fabric threads along Kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove threads. Work woven bars, using one strand of cotton perlé #12. Work dove's eye where ◇ appears, using one strand of cord. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. Bottom layer—Work buttonhole-stitch border, using one strand of cotton perlé #12. Work Kloster blocks, using one strand of cotton perlé #8. Work eyelet stitch where large ✱ appears, using one strand of cotton perlé #12 and pulling each leg. Work cable stitch for double diagonal lines, using one strand of very fine braid. Work long stitch, using one strand of very fine braid. Attach beads, using one strand of very fine braid.

Finishing instructions: Using a sewing machine and cream thread, "stitch in the ditch" of buttonhole-stitch edge of both stitched pieces. Trim away

Marry Garry's Sewing Cabin

Marry Garry



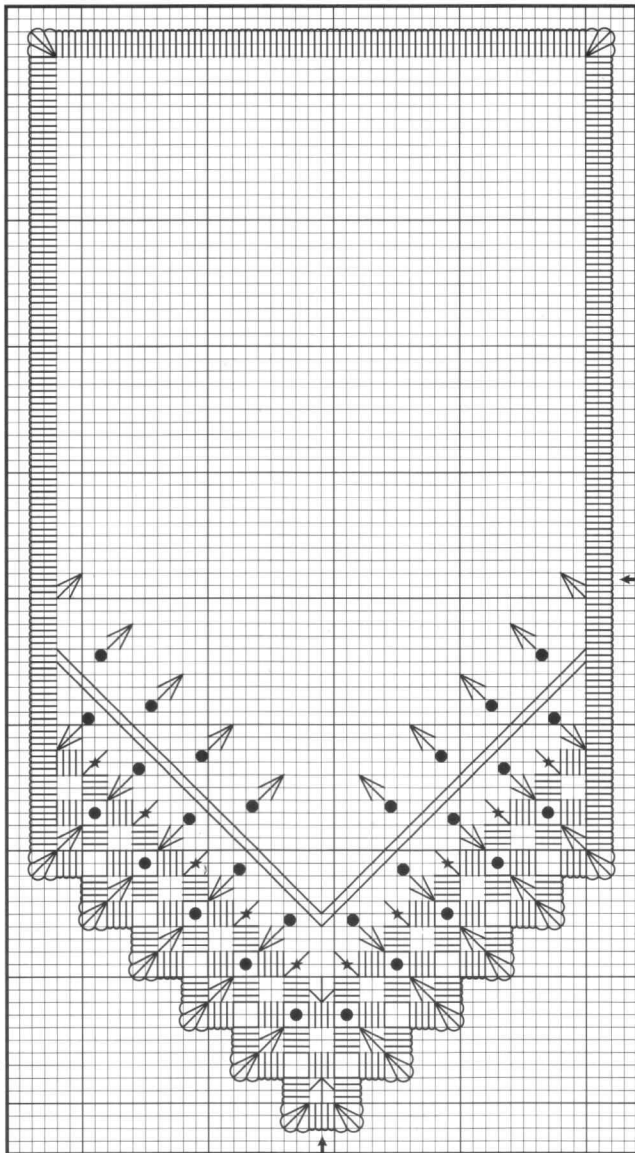
Food is an important part of our holiday celebration. Sometime during the holidays, we will have one turkey dinner, either at Thanksgiving or Christmas. Since our girls are living on their own, Chrissy in Milwaukee and Susie in Los Angeles, we can hardly wait for their arrival! When we finally sit down to that turkey dinner, the meal must include specific side dishes: wild-rice casserole, pretzel jello, scalloped oysters, stuffing, gravy, sour-cream mashed potatoes with cheese, sweet-potato casserole, and green-bean casserole. In fact, I seem to like all the "sides" better than the turkey. My "must have" is my mother-in-law's delicious cranberry salad. She makes it exactly as directed in the recipe. When I make this, I mix everything together all at one time. They are both delicious—well, hers is probably better—but if you're short on time, mix it all together the night before like I do. Happy holidays to you and your family from Marry Garry's Sewing Cabin.

Cranberry Salad

- 12 oz. fresh cranberries, cut up
- 1 c. crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 c. large marshmallows, cut into quarters
- 1 c. whipping cream
- ¾ c. sugar
- 1 c. walnuts, chopped

Mix first three ingredients together and let stand 5 hours. In a small mixing bowl, whip cream and add sugar and walnuts. Combine with fruit-marshmallow mixture and let stand 12 hours in refrigerator.

(Continued on page 76)



LESA'S MINI BELLPULL ORNAMENT-BOTTOM LAYER

excess fabric along buttonhole-stitch edge, being careful not to clip stitches. Press from back. Place top layer on top of bottom layer, aligning sides and top edges. Tack down top layer to bottom layer where buttonhole-stitch edges meet Kloster-block heart and along top edges. Fold ½" (13mm) of top edges to back, tacking down to secure and to

form a rod pocket. Insert 3⅝" (9cm)-wide brass bellpull hardware into rod pocket. Tassel was made using coton perlé #8, very fine braid, and DMC 500 or Anchor® 683 six-strand embroidery floss. Turn to tassel-making how-tos on page 92. Bows were made using ¼" (6mm)-wide metallic-gold-mesh wired ribbon.

small area until that length of floss runs out. Continue changing blues until the sky is completely filled.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Designed by Mary Garry of
Mary Garry's Sewing Cabin

The Gentle Art

Sampler Threads

X 0350	mulberry
▲ 0140	blue spruce
★ 0540	brandy
○ 1150	flax
◎ 0120	pine
♥ 1120	cherry bark
0240	midnight

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece

32-count natural linen

Stitch count: 70H x 70W

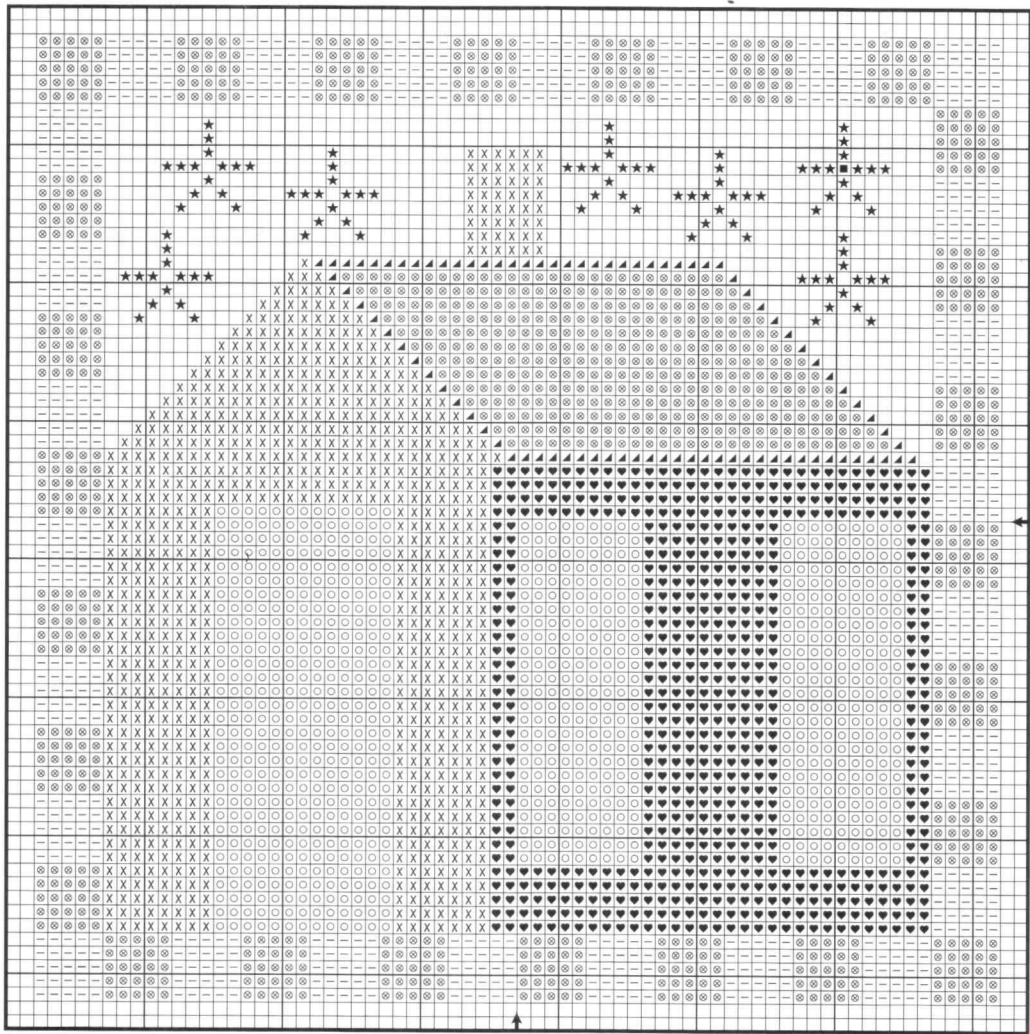
Design size: 4 3/8" x 4 3/8" (11cm x 11cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. For sky, thread needle with two strands 0240, 0910, or 0250 and stitch a small area until that length of floss runs out. Thread needle with a different blue floss and continue stitching another

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger and piping were made using backing fabric.

Finished by Edie Weilemann

Mary Garry's Sewing Cabin
408 E 14th Avenue
Naperville, IL 60563
e-mail: mgarry6824@aol.com



Mosey 'N Me

Frank and
Judy Bielec



These rich, fudgy cookies develop a cracked surface during baking. For a more dramatic look, coat them generously with the powdered sugar.

Chocolate Crackles

- 1½ c. all purpose flour
- ½ tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt
- 10 Tbsp. unsalted butter, at room temperature
- ¾ c. granulated sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 6 oz. bittersweet chocolate, melted and cooled slightly
- Sifted powdered sugar for coating

Preheat oven to 350°. Line two baking sheets with Silpat or lightly grease two baking sheets.

In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and salt. In a large bowl, beat butter and granulated sugar with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Beat in egg, then beat in vanilla. Gradually add melted chocolate, mixing until blended. On low speed, beat in flour mixture. Shape level tablespoons of dough into balls, roll in powdered sugar and place on cookie sheets, 2" apart. Bake cookies 10–12 minutes or until tops are cracked and cookies are just set. Cool 1–2 minutes on baking sheets, then transfer to wire racks to cool completely.

SANTA'S LITTLE GOODIE BAG

Designed by Judy and Frank Bielec
of Mosey 'N Me

Anchor*	DMC	
• 2	blanc	white
× 13	349	salmon, dk.
– 376	3774	fawn, lt.
× 399	318	grey, med. lt.
○ 894	224	carnation, vy. lt.
■ 1088	838	taupe, vy. dk.

Just My Imagination

Buttons

355 dark gold ken
button

Fabric: 8½" x 4½" (22cm x 11cm) piece
27-count natural Northern Cross linen
from Norden Crafts

Stitch count: 35H x 35W

Design size: 2½" x 2½" (7cm x 7cm)

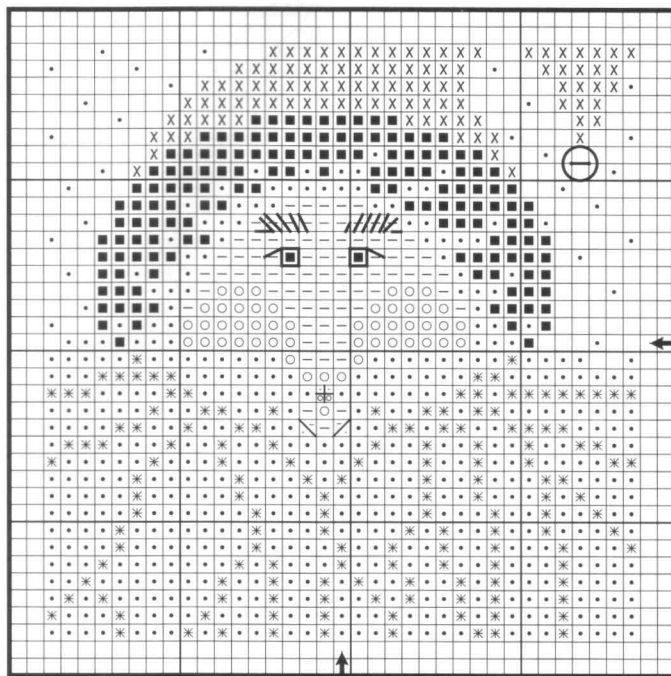
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch eyes, using two strands 1088/838. Add highlights to upper-right corner of eyes, using two strands 2/blanc and a small backstitch. Work straight stitch for eyebrows, using two strands 2/blanc. Attach button to end of

cap, using two strands of matching floss. **NOTE:** Begin stitching design 1½" (4cm) from top edge of fabric, centering design horizontally.

Finishing instructions: Fold linen in half, bringing bottom of linen up to cover stitched piece. Using a ½" (13mm) seam allowance, sew sides of linen to form a pocket. Trim seam allowances to ¼" (6mm) and clip corners. Turn ornament right-side out. Turn under ½" (13mm) along top edge of pocket; press.

In the same manner, fold and sew a 8½" x 4½" (22cm x 11cm) piece of complementary fabric for lining to form a pocket. Do **not** turn right-side out. Turn ⅝" (16mm) to wrong side along top edge of fabric pocket; press. Insert fabric pocket into ornament. Insert opposite ends of 12" (30cm)-length ⅛" (3mm)-wide red satin ribbon into opposite sides of ornament between ornament and fabric pocket. Pin in place. Using a ¼" (6mm) seam allowance, sew around top of ornament through all thicknesses.

Mosey 'N Me
Post Office Box 1347
Katy, TX 77492



(Photo is on page 18.)

SANTA'S LITTLE GOODIE BAG

Moss Creek Designs, Inc.

Rae Iverson

The Legend of *Flor de la Nochebuena* (Flower of the Holy Night)

Our first ambassador to Mexico, Joel Poinsett, is said to have brought the *flor de la nochebuena* flower to this country over 160 years ago. To honor him, we call them poinsettias; but the explanation for the red leaves is the stuff of Mexican legend, and as the story goes. . .

Once upon a time, several months before the celebration of *Festiva Navidad*, a young priest gathered around him the beautiful nativity that his grandfather had carved many years ago.

He remembered sitting at his grandfather's side as he carved the figures of the animals, made the shawl of Mary flow over her wooden shoulders, and set a soft smile on the face of Joseph. Most of all, though, he cherished the figure of the baby Jesus, so sweet and innocent in his wooden crib. This year, as he unwrapped the figures, he saw that the little crib was split and broken.

"I shall have all the best carvers in the village make us a new one," he said. "And the carver whose crib is the most beautiful will be honored by leading the villagers out of the church for our Christmas Eve procession."

So, the word went out; and soon the men, with their sons and grandsons at their sides, could be seen every evening chipping and shaping the best pieces of wood.



were finished to adorn the figures in the manger.

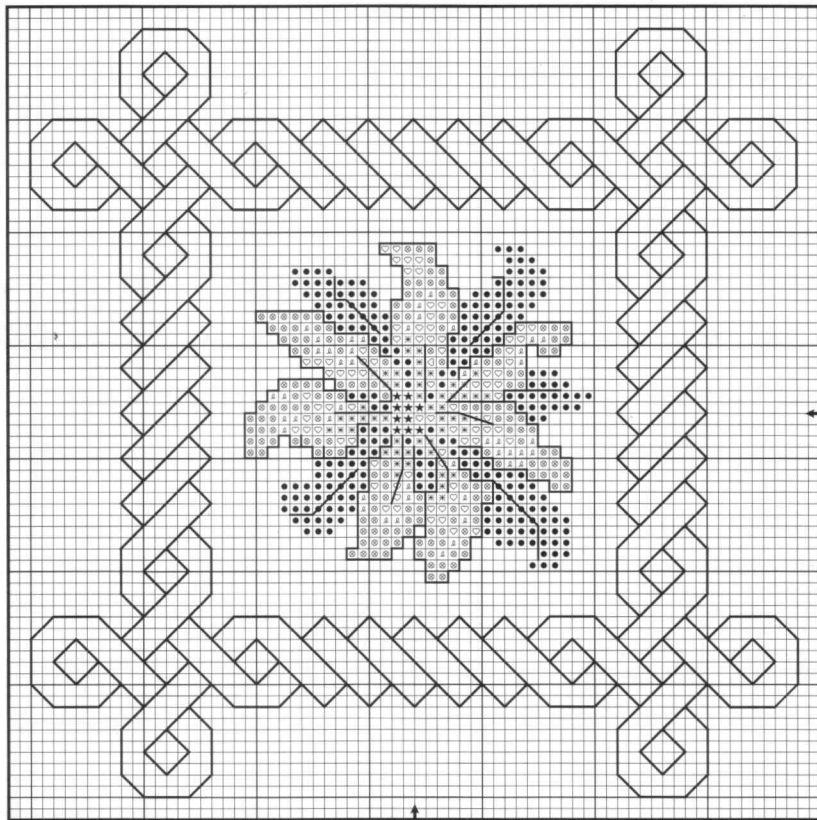
As it happened, on Christmas Eve day, a young boy and his sister came into the village. They were alone and very poor; and though the villagers were pleased to give them food and a warm place to sleep, the children had no gift for the baby Jesus.

"How can we march in the procession," the little girl cried to her brother. "We have no gift." All that day, the two children searched in vain for a gift they could lay at the feet of the fine wooden figures.

The mothers and daughters, too, were busy for it was tradition to bring a gift for the holy family. Within a short time, a handsome array of *serapes*, painted boxes, woven cloths, and tiny reed baskets

As dusk turned to night, the villagers gathered at the far edge of the village street and formed a procession to the church. Each person carried his gift in one hand and held a candle high in the other hand. Though the night was dark, their way was bright and clear. In the shadows, the young boy and his sister watched, sad that they could not be a part of the happiest holiday. As he comforted his crying sister, the young boy watched the villagers. As the candlelight passed in front of him, he saw a tangle of weeds spring out of the ground.

"Hush, now," he said to his sister, "I have found a gift." He gathered the handful of green leaves; and, together, he and his sister joined the procession. When they reached the manger, it was clear that their gift was not as fine as the others. And though they could hear the villagers whispering and snickering in back of them, the boy and his sister spread out their leaves all around the manger.



(Photos are on pages 28 and 29.)

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

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When they stepped back, a magical thing happened. The dull green weeds they had strewn among the baskets and weavings and finely carved cribs suddenly shone like brilliant red stars and lighted the church with a glow much warmer than all the candles of the village.

The villagers stopped their whispering; and the priest said, "You have brought fine gifts made with the talent of God in your hands. But no gift is greater than these beautiful red flowers on this holy night for they have been given in innocent love."

And so it is today, both here and in the villages of Mexico, that the holiest time of year is aflame with the red starry leaves that remind us that gifts given in the spirit of love are the finest gifts of all.

¡Feliz Navidad! Happy Christmas!

A CELTIC CHRISTMAS

Designed by Rae Iverson
of Moss Creek Designs, Inc.

Pink Poinsettia

Anchor*	DMC	
✧ 926	712	ecru, vy. lt.
✧ 969	316	wineberry, med.
♥ 968	778	wineberry, lt.
ℓ 1026	225	wineberry, vy. lt.
bs 862	520	laurel green, dk.
bs 832	612	sierra, med.
bs 683	890	turf green

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

- 1276 blue spruce

DMC	Anchor*	
ss 5282	701	metallic gold

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

- ★ 40557 gold

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 32-count natural linen/silk from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 68H x 68W

Design size: 2 1/8" x 2 1/8" (5cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Backstitch over one thread, using one strand of floss. Backstitch over two threads or work double-running stitch over two threads for Celtic-braid border, using one strand 862/520. Work straight stitch (ss) for veins in colored bracts, using one strand 5282. Attach beads, using two strands of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

832	612	colored bracts
683	890	green leaves

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and tassels were made using 862/520 and 5282/701. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Turn to page 92 for tassel-making how-tos. Hanger was made using 5282/701.

Red Poinsettia

Anchor*	DMC	
✧ 45	814	carmine rose, vy. dk.
✧ 43	815	carmine rose, med. dk.
♥ 42	326	carmine rose, med.

ℓ 41	893	carmine rose, med. lt.
bs 862	520	laurel green, dk.
bs 72	3685	raspberry, vy. dk.
bs 683	890	turf green

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

- 1276 blue spruce

DMC	Anchor*	
ss 5282	701	metallic gold

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

★ 40557 gold
Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 28-count summer khaki Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 68H x 68W
Design size: 2 1/2" x 2 1/2" (6cm x 6cm)

Instructions: See *Pink Poinsettia* instructions.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

72	3685	colored bracts
683	890	green leaves

Finishing instructions: Mount in cherry cover of lead-crystal jar from Moss Creek Designs, Inc., following manufacturer's instructions. Twisted-cording trim was made using 862/520. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Moss Creek Designs, Inc.
5 Pepperbush Lane
Hilton Head, SC 29926
e-mail: mosscrek@hargray.com
website: www.mosscrekdesigns.com

Needle Maid Designs, Inc.

Martha Schmidt



During the Christmas season forty years ago, Fred and I were planning our wedding after having dated for almost five years. We were married on New Year's Eve; consequently, the holidays

have always been very special to our family. Even before we were married, Fred was an eager participant in my family's traditions.

Back then, with two nearly grown sons, his parents decided that decorating a tree was too much trouble, especially since Christmas was an under-celebrated holiday for them. That decision bothered Fred; and he would always join my sisters, brother, and me as we decorated our tree. He came "to help," but usually a friendly argument arose, with Fred and my brother insisting that the lead tinsel be thrown at the tree to land in clumps here and there, while my sisters and I insisted that each individual strand be gently draped over the branches. Since we've been married, we've never used tinsel on our trees.

When our two children were small, Fred helped the local Lion's Club sell trees as a fund-raising project. Fred

would always adopt the worst of the bunch, not wanting any tree to miss its glorious moment. Usually the branches were so far apart that the light wires were more visible than the lights. I will say that the ornaments hung down nice and straight with nothing there to obstruct their position. Fred would often cut a branch from the very bottom, drill a hole in the trunk where a branch was desperately needed, and stick the new branch into the hole, with a little wood glue for security. Our friends always wondered why one or two branches turned brown rather quickly.

Finally, about ten years ago, I emphatically refused to accept any more "Charlie Brown" trees and discovered Schmidt's (no relation) Tree Farm in Landenberg, Pennsylvania. What a marvelous place! Sometimes it takes me
(Continued on page 80. Chart and color code are on page 80.)

almost an hour to select exactly the right tree; there are simply too many choices. Fred cuts down my perfect selection, and it is loaded back onto the flat bed for the return trip to the main farm building.

This ritual of selecting the perfect tree has become an extended-family tradition with aunts, cousins, sisters, and uncles joining in the fun. On March 26, Fred and I were blessed with our first grandchild; and fortunately the parents, our son and his wife, live in Philadelphia, only forty-five minutes away. I can't wait to have our new grandson, Isaac, join in all of the Christmas excitement as we select this year's tree.

Needle Maid Designs, Inc.
Post Office Box 867
Hockessin, DE 19707

EIGHT MAIDS A-MILKING

Designed by Martha Schmidt
of Needle Maid Designs, Inc.

DMC Anchor®

- blanc 2 white
- ♥ 321 47 red
- ✓ 415 398 pearl gray
- ◆ 434 310 brown, lt.
- ◊ 436 363 tan
- 754 1012 peach flesh, lt.
- ✦ 760 1022 salmon
- ⊗ 761 1021 salmon, lt.
- 801 359 coffee, dk.
- × 5269 — metallic green
- ☆ 5282 701 metallic gold
- bs 414 235 steel gray, dk.
- 5270 — metallic red

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads*

- 02013 red red
- ⋄ 00332 emerald

Fabric: 10½" x 9" (26cm x 23cm) 26-count gold lurex Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 58H x 39W

Design size: 4½" x 3" (11cm x 8cm)

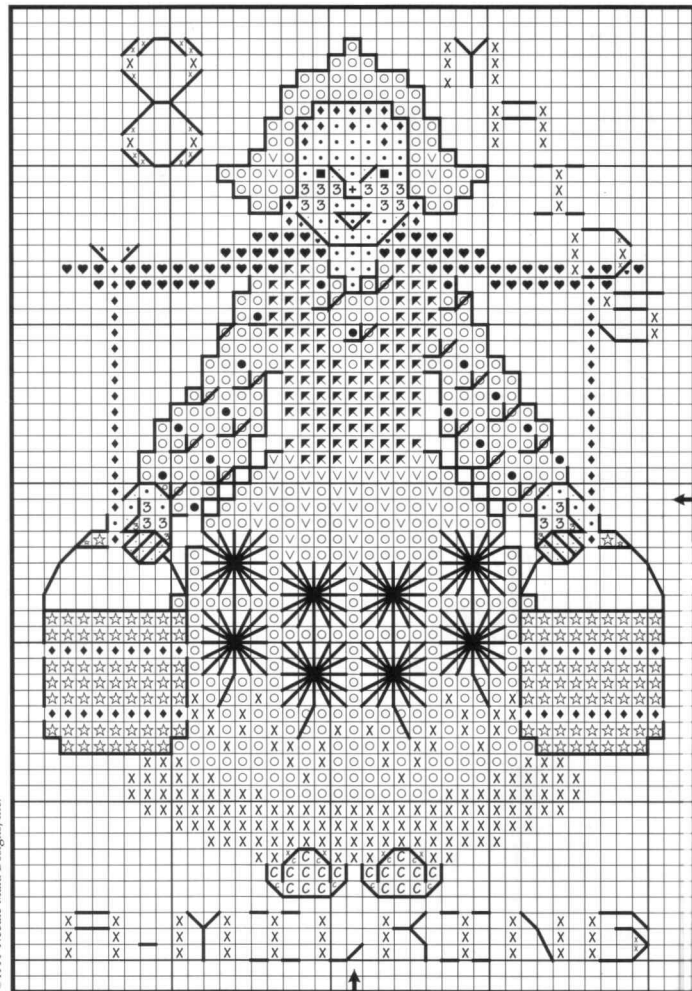
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using two strands of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work eyelet stitch over eight threads where large * appears in skirt, using two strands 5270. Attach beads, using two strands of matching floss.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

- 801 359 bucket handle
- 321 47 mouth
- 5269 — stems and leaves of red-bead flowers, lettering, 8, stems of eyelet flowers
- 434 310 chin, nose, eyes, hands, shoes, bucket (one strand)
- 414 235 hat, sleeves, apron, blouse neck (one strand)

Finishing instructions: Trim ornament to ½" (13mm) from top and bottom and to ⅜" (10mm) from sides of stitched

design. Cut complementary piece of backing fabric ⅛" (1.5mm) smaller on all sides than trimmed size of ornament. [NOTE: Use a ¼" (6mm) seam allowance throughout.] With right sides together, sew sides together, beginning and ending ½" (13mm) from top and bottom of ornament. Sew bottom seam, centering backing fabric. Turn ornament right-side out and press from back, using a press cloth and a low-temperature setting. Turn top seam under ¼" (6mm) and whipstitch in place. Insert 3½" (9cm)-wide bellpull hardware into small openings at top and bottom of ornament.



The Needle's Work

Dawn Lewis



As I look back at the Christmas memories of my childhood, I am reminded of the strong family tradition of having Santa Claus pay us a visit on Christmas Eve. Of course at the time, I was unaware that it was really my father in that red suit behind that flowing white beard. He was a wonderful Santa. He had the perfect personality for it as well as a great "Ho, Ho, Ho."

But when I was two and a half, he frightened me to death. I can actually remember standing in a corner of the room screaming in terror. I had not yet learned that this strange bearded man came bearing presents. And, of course, my mother took a picture of my very emphatic reaction. It became another tradition to pass around that picture of me screaming on every succeeding Christmas Eve. That picture became an instrument of torture for me.

When my oldest daughter, Amanda, was two and a half years old, the family tradition was still going strong. Grandpa still had his red suit, and I looked forward with great anticipation to Christmas Eve. Isn't every child of that age frightened of Santa? Wouldn't she scream and cry as I had? I looked forward to getting a picture of the new generation to replace the one

of me that my family was still dragging out every year. Amanda was a very shy little girl. I was certain that I would finally be off the hot seat.

When the long-anticipated evening began, Amanda took one look at Santa, strutted over to him, and stole his bells. This funny man with the white beard had a handful of lovely, noisy bells; and she decided that she wanted them. Was she the least bit intimidated or frightened? Of course not.

When he began to pass out the gifts, she decided to help. If the present was for Grandma, she would walk over to Santa, take the gift from him, and deliver it to Grandma. Of course, she stopped to open it on the way. So, that was the year that Amanda opened everyone's gifts. And I never did get that wonderful photo of Amanda screaming in the corner of the room. I am still enduring my family chuckling at that old picture of me at the age of two and a half. Why is it that a child will never, ever do the expected?

The Needle's Work
524 North Oklahoma Avenue
Morton, IL 61550
e-mail: ndlsww@dpc.net

CHRISTMAS WELCOME

Designed by Dawn Lewis
of The Needle's Work

The Caron Collection Soie Cristale

- ☆ 0077 brown, med.
- 5061 hunter green
- ♥ 6021 burgundy
- ⊗ 7701 royal blue

DMC Metallic Thread

- × 282Z gold

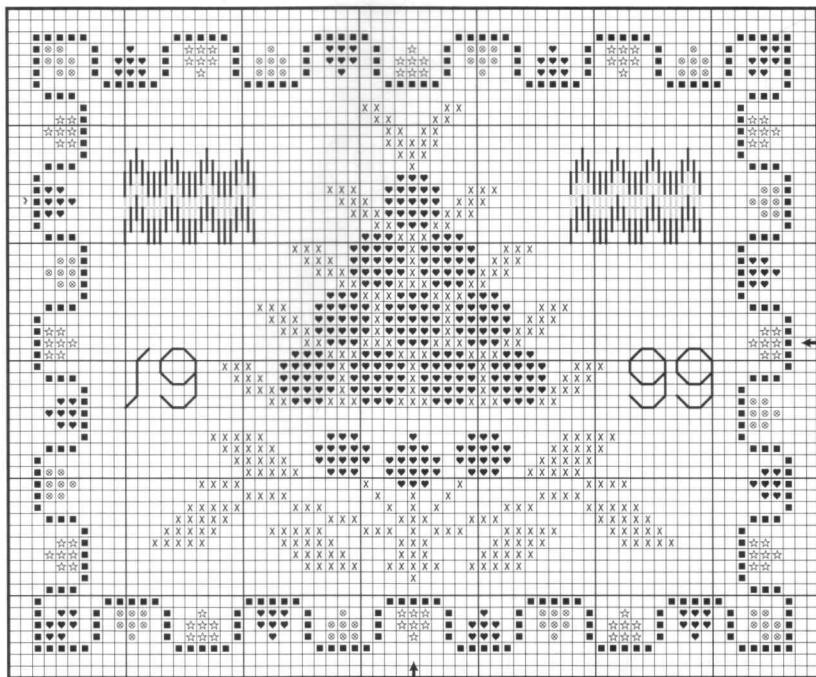
Fabric: 10" x 11" (25cm x 28cm) piece
25-count cream Dublin* linen from
Zweigart*

Stitch count: 53H x 65W

Design size: 4 1/4" x 5 1/4" (11cm x 13cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of metallic thread. Backstitch using one strand 6021. Work Bargello areas, using two strands of floss, in rows in the following order from top to bottom: 7001, 0077, and 6021. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Trim was purchased.



(Photo is on page 14.)

CHRISTMAS WELCOME



Needlecrafts Unlimited Co.

Linda Driskell



Southern Pecan Pie

- 1 c. white corn syrup
- 1 c. dark brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/3 c. melted butter
- 3 whole eggs,
slightly beaten
- 1 heaping c. pecans
- 1 Tbsp. vanilla
- 1 (9") unbaked pie
shell

In a large bowl, mix syrup, sugar, salt, butter, and vanilla. Mix in eggs. Gently fold in pecans. Pour into pie shell. Bake in preheated 350° oven for approximately 45 minutes.

This pie is always served with ice cream at Thanksgiving and Christmas dinner in our home. I hope you will enjoy it for a special occasion.

Needlecrafts Unlimited Co.
Post Office Box 4333
Gadsden, AL 35904
e-mail: linda.driskell@worldnet.att.net
website: www.888needle.com

A WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE

Designed by Linda Driskell
of Needlecrafts Unlimited Co.

DMC Coton Perlé #8 and #12
blanc white

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
032 pearl

Mill Hill Glass Beads
00479 white

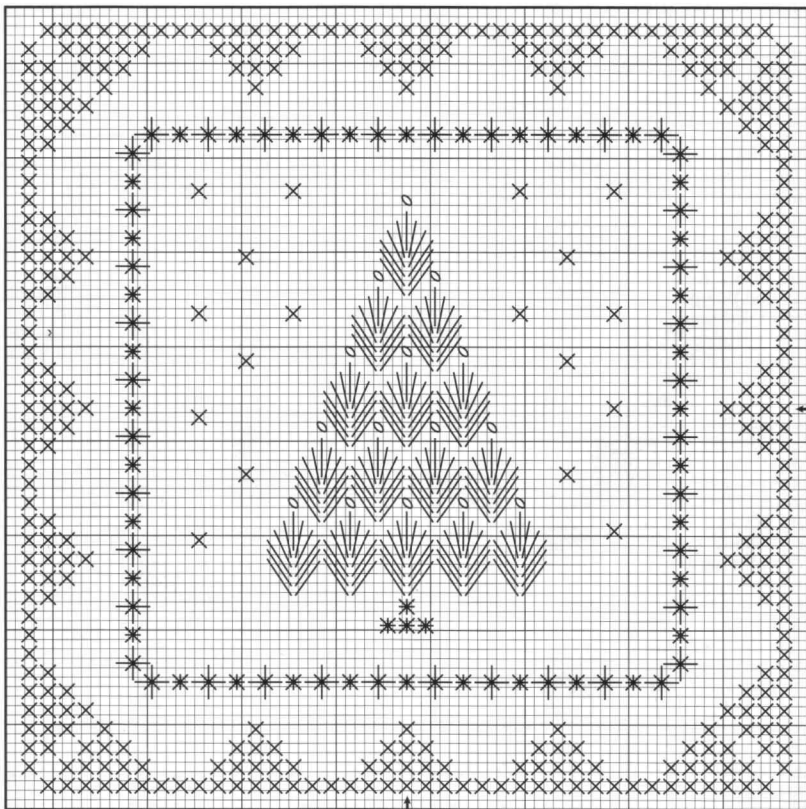
Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 22-count blueberry Janina® from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 90H x 90W
Design size: 4 1/8" x 4 1/8" (10cm x 10cm)

NOTE: Each line on chart equals one fabric thread.

Instructions: Cross stitch sawtooth border over two threads, using one strand of coton perlé #8. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads and star stitch over four threads for inner border,

using one strand of coton perlé #8. Cross stitch snowflakes over two threads, using one strand of very fine braid. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads for tree trunk, using one strand of coton perlé #8. Work leaf stitch for tree, using one strand of coton perlé #8. Attach beads, using two strands of coton perlé #12. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Backstitch four threads from border to form a square using one strand of coton perlé #8. Trim fabric to within 1/4" (6mm) of backstitching and turn under along backstitches, mitering corners. With right-side down and referring to illustration on page 98, bring corners together in center back. Weave openings closed, catching backstitches and using one strand of coton perlé #8. Fill with polyester stuffing before closing top-center opening, insert ends of hanger into seam, and weave closed. Hanger was made using one strand of coton perlé #8.



(Photo is on page 8.)

A WHITE CHRISTMAS TREE

Nordic Needle, Inc.

Roz Watnemo



Growing up on a farm in northern Minnesota, we never had to worry if we would have snow for Christmas. We always had snow—and cold weather for Christmas and for several weeks before and after Christmas! It may have been cold outside, but it was warm inside as the family gathered around the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve.

We would not even have Christmas if God hadn't sent His Son to be our Savior. Our Christmas Eve always began with my father reading Luke's account of the birth of Jesus. That's how every Christmas was when I was growing up, and how it is still today. We pack up our family and head 100 miles up north to be with our family and celebrate the real reason for Christmas!

One of our favorite desserts around Christmas and all winter long is cranberry cake. It is delicious and festive and easy to make with our busy schedules. Enjoy!

Cranberry Cake

Cake:

3 Tbsp. butter, softened
1 c. white sugar
½ c. water
½ c. evaporated milk
2 c. flour
1 tsp. salt
2 tsp. soda
2 c. uncooked whole cranberries

In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar, water, and evaporated milk. Add flour, salt, and soda. Mix together and add cranberries.

Makes 1½ dozen muffins or 2 pie pans. Bake 30 minutes for muffins or 40 minutes for pie pans at 350°. I sometimes will make one

and a half recipe to fill a 9" x 13" pan. Bake 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of cake comes out dry.

Sauce:

½ lb. (1 c.) butter
1 c. sugar
Remainder of evaporated milk from can
2 tsp. vanilla

Bring to a boil and serve hot over the cranberry cake. This is very reheatable. Enjoy!

HARDANGER ORNAMENT

Designed by Roz Watnemo
of Nordic Needle, Inc.

Rainbow Gallery

Splendor*

× S838 sea green, dk.
S826 burgundy

Rainbow Gallery

Elegance™

E800 cool white

Fabric: 6" x 6" (15cm x 15cm) piece 28-count white Lugana® from Zweigart*

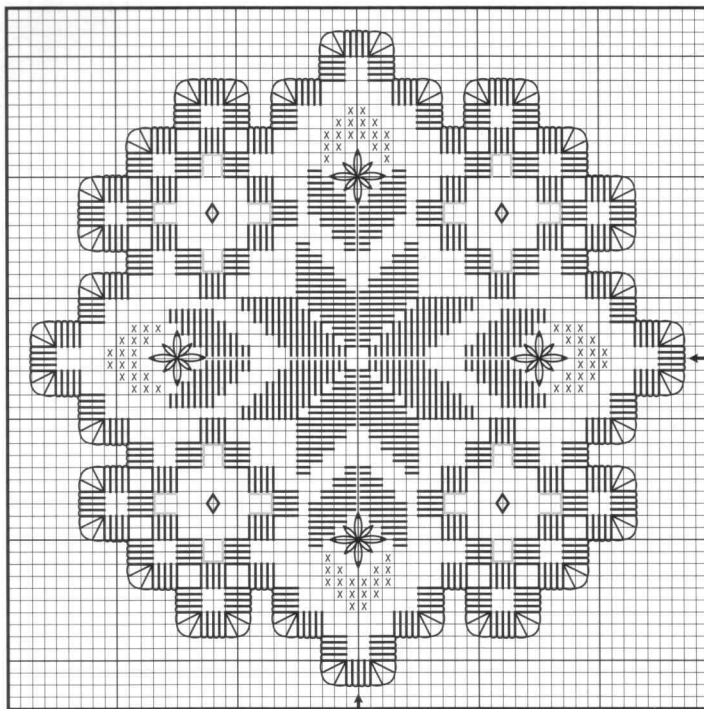
Stitch count: 54H x 54W

Design size: 3⅞" x 3⅞" (10cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of Splendor*. Work lazy-daisy stitch for poinsettias, using one strand S826. Work satin-stitch motifs, Kloster blocks, and buttonhole-stitch edging, using one strand of Elegance™. Cut fabric threads along Kloster blocks where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove threads. Work woven bars and dove's eye in center of woven-bar areas, using one strand of Elegance™. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Using a sewing machine and white thread, "stitch in the ditch" of buttonhole-stitch edge. Trim away excess fabric along buttonhole-stitch edge, being careful not to clip stitches. Press from back. Hanger was made using monofilament.

Nordic Needle, Inc.
1314 Gateway Drive
 Fargo, ND 58103
e-mail: needle@corpcomm.net
website: nordicneedle.com



HARDANGER ORNAMENT

(Photo is on page 26.)



The Nostalgic Needle

Sharon Cohen



Cream of Potato & Cheese Soup

- 4 baking potatoes
- 3 cans cream of potato soup
- 2 soup cans milk
- ½ medium onion, chopped
- 2 Tbsp. butter
- Salt
- Pepper
- Celery seed
- Cheddar cheese, shredded

Peel and cut potatoes into large chunks. Boil in water on stove in large pot about 45–60 minutes. Drain all but about 1 c. of water from potatoes. Leave in pot. Add 3 cans of soup and 2 cans of milk. With potato masher, mash concoction well while cooking over medium heat. Let simmer over medium-low heat.

Sauté onion in butter in a frying pan over medium heat, until onion is translucent. Pour onion and butter into soup pot. Add salt, pepper, and celery seed to taste. Simmer a little longer to blend flavors.

(Photo is on page 14.)

Serve soup and swirl in shredded cheese while hot in bowl.

This soup can be refrigerated up to a week and reheated in portions. Add cheese only after soup is reheated.

TUDOR ROSE ORNAMENT

Designed by Sharon Cohen
of The Nostalgic Needle

DMC Anchor*

- 3813 875 blue-green, lt.
- × 3768 779 gray-green, dk.
- ℞ 522 860 fern green (rice stitch)
- 3013 853 khaki, lt.
- 224 893 pink, lt.
- 3722 1027 pink, med. dk.

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 29-count natural Glenshee linen from The Heart's Content, Inc.

Stitch count: 45H x 45W

Design size: 3 1/8" x 3 1/8" (8cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work double-running stitch for tendrils,

using one strand 3768/779. Work rice stitch over four threads, using two strands of floss. Work satin stitch in direction indicated by arrows to fill areas, using two strands of floss. **NOTE:** Heavy lines indicate color breaks and are not to be stitched. Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Special instructions:

Area 1—3013/853

Area 2—224/893

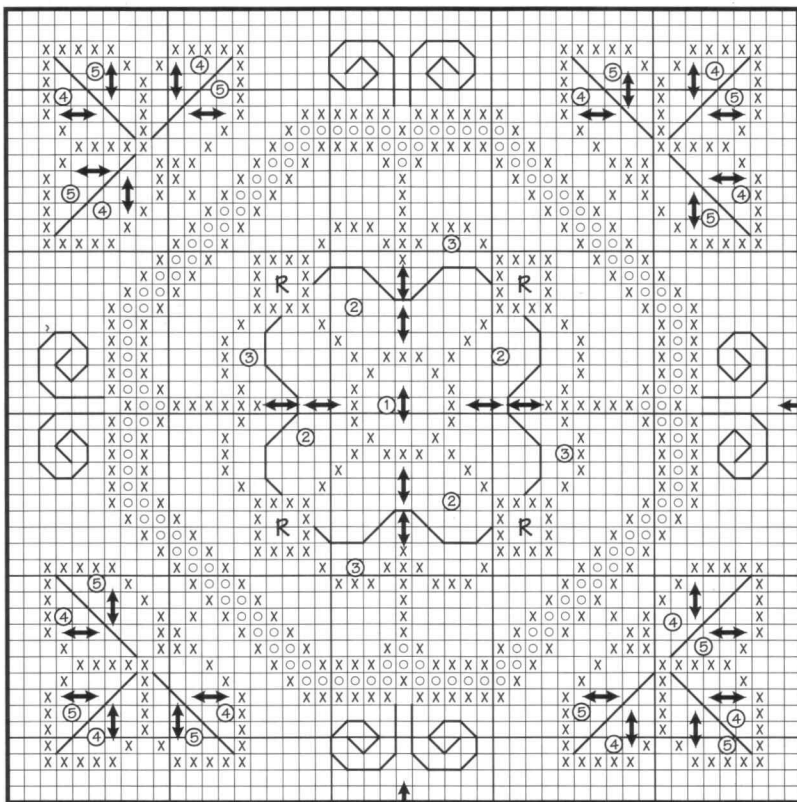
Area 3—3722/1027

Area 4—3013/853

Area 5—522/860

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 522/860 and 3013/853. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

The Nostalgic Needle
20200 Shipley Terrace #202
Germantown, MD 20874



TUDOR ROSE ORNAMENT



The Nutmeg Needle

Sue Stokes



Chocolate Raspberry Crumb Bars

- 1 c. butter
- 2 c. flour
- ½ c. packed brown sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 12 oz. semi sweet chips divided
- 14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk
- ½ c. seedless raspberry jam

In a mixing bowl, beat butter and add flour, brown sugar, and salt. Finger press ¾ c. crumb mixture into 9" x 13" greased pan. Reserve remaining mixture. Bake 10-12 minutes until golden brown.

Combine condensed milk and 1 c. chocolate chips in saucepan and melt. Spread over hot crust; drop remaining crumb mixture on top of melted chocolate. Next drop raspberry jam on top of crumb mixture, then sprinkle remaining chips on top of jam. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes. Enjoy!

PATCHWORK SQUARE

Designed by Sue Stokes of The Nutmeg Needle

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

+ 0310 claret

DMC Anchor®

- 315 1019 mauve, dk.
- 3041 871 antique violet, med.
- ♥ 3726 1018 mauve, med. lt.

- 3740 872 antique violet, dk.
- bs 3371 382 black-brown
- 640 393 beige-gray, vy. dk.

DMC Coton Perlé #12

ecru ecru

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 28-count sandstone linen from Wichel Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 42H x 42W

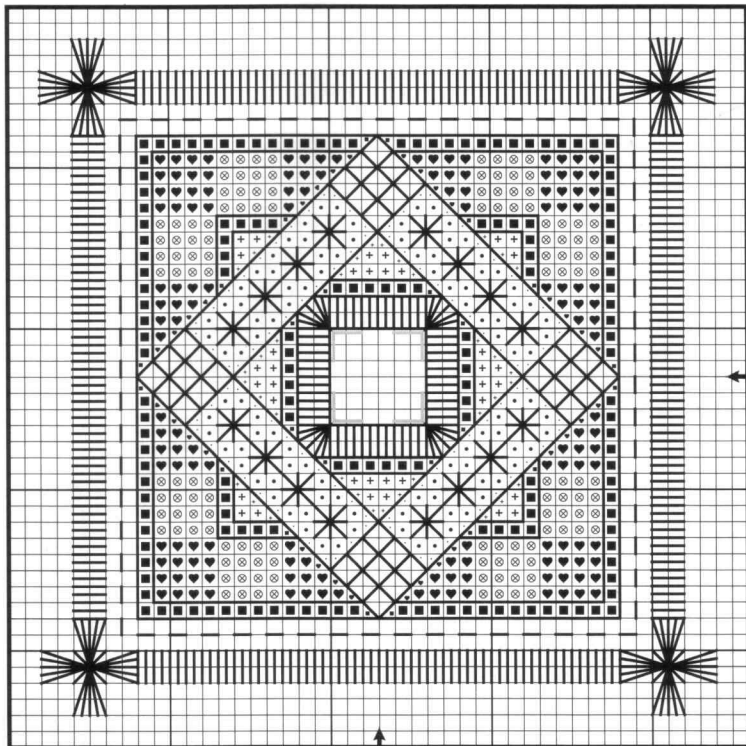
Design size: 3" x 3" (8cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work satin stitch for border and for innermost square, using one strand of coton perlé. Work raised Maltese cross stitch over twelve threads with cross stitch over four threads over top for corners of border, using one strand of coton perlé. Work running stitch over two threads and under two threads for broken line between border and cross-stitch area, using two strands 640/393. Work star stitch over four threads for corners of diamond, using two strands 3740/872. (**NOTE:** Outline is for stitch

placement only and is not to be backstitched in between star stitches.) Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads where large ✱ appears, using two strands 0310 and pulling each leg. Backstitch (bs), using one strand 3371/382. Cut fabric threads along satin stitch of innermost square where indicated by gray lines. Carefully remove threads. Work wrapped woven wheel, using one strand of coton perlé. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Stitched design was placed inside a purple plaid Original Tuck-A-Way® Mini Pillow from Olde Colonial Designs. One ⅝" (16mm)-diameter bone button was attached to each of the four corners of the pillow, using six strands 0310 and tying a bow with floss tails.

The Nutmeg Needle
107 Union Street
Rockville, CT 06066
e-mail: dustokes@aol.com



PATCHWORK SQUARE

(Photo is on page 14.)

Poppy Kreations

Joan Moore



Stitch count: 47H x 44W
Design size: 3" x 2 3/4" (7cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Attach buttons on either side of snowman, using two strands of matching floss.

Finishing instructions: Cut three 5 1/2" (14cm)-long and one 24" (61cm)-long 1" (2.5cm)-wide bias pieces of complementary fabric. Fold three shortest pieces in half lengthwise; press. Arrange folded pieces in a triangular shape to "frame" stitched ornament; pin in place. Using a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance, sew through all thicknesses. Remove pins. To make piping, wrap length of remaining bias piece around 24" (61cm)-long piece 1/8" (3mm)-diameter cotton cording. Using a zipper foot on the sewing machine, sew through all fabric thicknesses, using a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance.

Cut three 8" (20cm)-long 1 3/8" (34mm)-wide pieces of another complementary fabric. Fold under 1/4" (6mm) on one long side of each piece; press.

Arrange folded pieces in a triangular shape to "frame" stitched ornament, allowing 1/4" (6mm) of bias-fabric frame to remain visible; pin in place. Using a 1/4" (6mm) seam allowance, sew through all thicknesses. Remove pins. Trim corners of fabric to points. Using ornament front as a pattern, cut out ornament back from complementary fabric.

Place piping atop right side of ornament front, aligning raw edges; baste in place. Place ornament front and back with right sides together; pin in place. Insert loop of 1/8" (3mm)-wide dark-green satin ribbon for hanger at top of ornament. Sew through all thicknesses, using a 3/8" (9mm) seam allowance and leaving an opening at bottom for turning. Remove pins. Turn ornament right-side out. Blind stitch opening closed. Bow was made using 1/4" (6mm)-wide red satin ribbon. Pompom was purchased.

Poppy Kreations
2324 SW 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50315
e-mail: jnmoore100@aol.com

I have many wonderful Christmas memories, but one that was so heart-warming occurred in 1989. My family all went to midnight mass. When we got home at 1:15 a.m., we decided to open our presents. When we were finished, my daughter Julie said, "Oh, here is one left for Mom." I was not sure I could stay awake long enough to open one more present, but I did. Inside the box was a grandma's brag book. My first grandchild, Matthew, was going to be born into our family. I was no longer tired because I was so excited. I could not have asked for a better gift than that. It is hard to believe he is ten years old already. Of course, I still have my brag book as well as another grandchild. What a wonderful way to let me know that I was going to be a nana.

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

Designed by Joan Moore
of Poppy Kreations

DMC Anchor*

- 310 403 black
- × 921 1003 copper

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- 1140 oatmeal

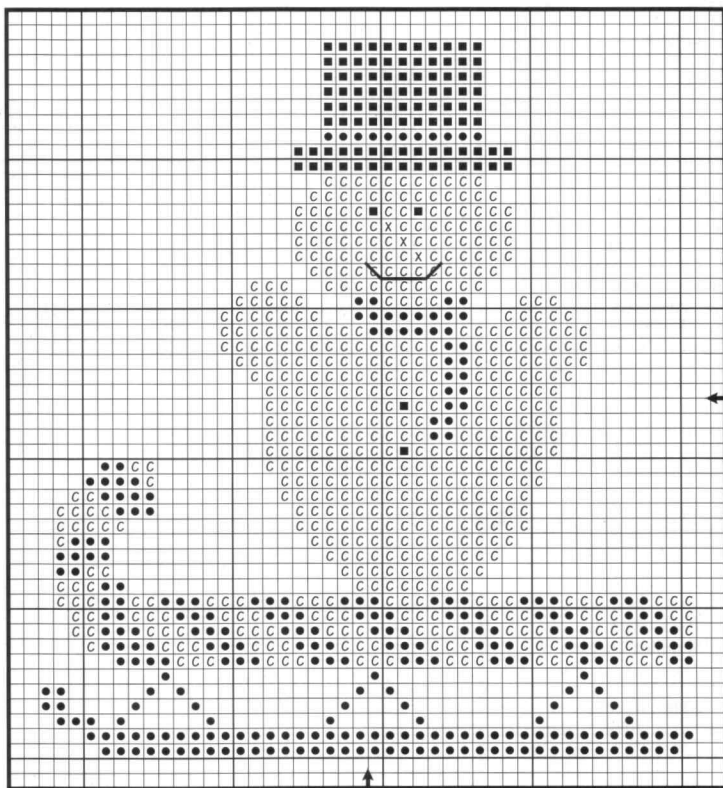
Needle Necessities Floss Overdyed

- 153 razzle dazzle red

Honey Bee Creations Buttons

- 1012 medium square gift (2)

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm)
piece 32-count evergreen linen
from Wichelt Imports, Inc.



(Photo is on page 24.)

IT'S CHRISTMAS TIME

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOLER

Pamela Byrd Brunke

As always, we enjoy being a part of this issue. Our "Let It Snow-Man" is great to put on the Christmas tree or to keep displayed even through the month of January. See our four new books for other great items to stitch for Christmas.

Before going out to play in the freshly fallen snow, you may want to gather some clean, fresh snow and make snow ice cream.

Snow Ice Cream

2½ qt. clean fresh snow

½ c. milk or half-and-half

1 tsp. vanilla

1 c. sugar

Chocolate syrup for topping

Mix together sugar, milk, vanilla and then lightly fold in snow. Top with chocolate syrup. Enjoy!



LET IT SNOW-MAN

Designed by Pamela Byrd Brunke
of The Prairie Schooler

DMC	Anchor*
• blanc 2	white
• 433 358	brown, med.
• 918 341	copper, dk.
X 934 862	avocado black
N 3781 1050	mocha brown, dk.
■ 3371 382	black-brown

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm) piece 18-count olive Aida from Wichel Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 50H x 43W

Design size: 2⅞" x 2½" (7cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

934	862	border
3371	382	mouth
3781	1050	broom
918	341	scarf

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Piping and hanger were made using backing fabric.

The Prairie Schooler
Post Office Box 8381
Prairie Village, KS 66208

TWISTED-CORDING INSTRUCTIONS

Materials:

Embroidery floss, cotton perlé, or other fiber to complement stitchery (**NOTE:** To determine amount needed, see Step 1. Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)

Heavy key chain with keys (to provide weight)

Twist tie

Cup-hook screw

Cordless or electric drill or mini cording drill

NOTE: Cording can be made by one person; however, the procedure can be awkward at times, especially when dealing with long lengths of floss—an extra set of hands is always helpful.

1. To determine the amount of floss needed, multiply by three the desired length of the cording, making sure to include any length needed for hangers when finishing ornaments. Place all lengths of floss together and tie a knot in each end.

2. Place cup-hook screw in drill instead of a bit. Make certain cup-hook screw is securely in place.

3. Slip one knotted end of floss onto cup-hook screw. Slip other knotted end over a small knob. Pull drill so that floss is taut. Turn on drill. Floss will begin to twist. Continue twisting until floss is very tightly twisted and is about to twist up on itself. Turn off drill. Do not remove twisted floss from cup-hook screw or knob.

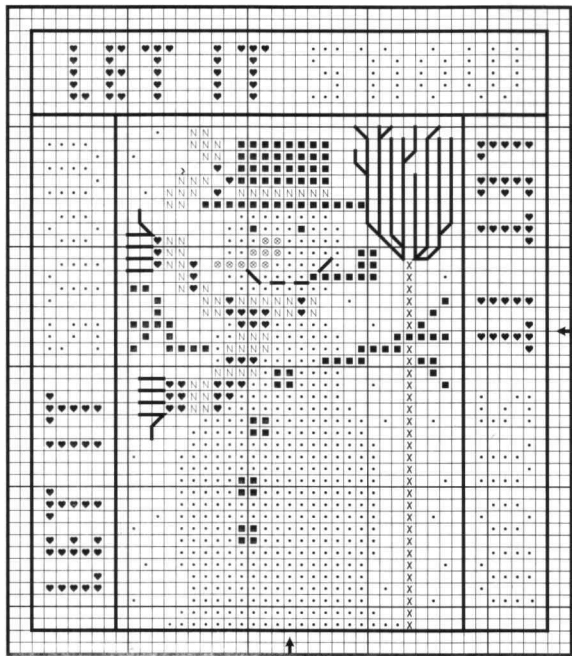
4. Using a twist tie, attach key chain to center of twisted floss. Remove floss ends from cup-hook screw and knob, being extremely careful not to let go of ends and keeping twisted floss taut. With key chain in the center of twisted floss, bring knotted ends together and allow weight of key chain to twist the floss evenly. When the twisting is complete, secure the knotted ends with another knot and remove twist tie and key chain.

Tips for Making Two-Color Cording:

- Determine length of floss according to Step 1 above.
- Bring together two ends of one color, referring to Illustration A. Slip one end of other color through circle formed by first color and tie a knot so that another circle is formed. (See Illustration B.)
- Continue with Step 2.

ILLUSTRATION A

ILLUSTRATION B



(Photo is on page 25.)

LET IT SNOW-MAN

The Sampler House

Eileen J. Bennett



Holiday Broccoli Salad
(A beautiful green salad and a Bennett family favorite!)

- 2 bunches broccoli, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 pounds fresh mushrooms, cleaned and sliced
- 4 green onions including tops, sliced
- ½ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. paprika
- 1 tsp. celery seed
- 1 tsp. onion powder (optional)
- ¼ c. white vinegar
- 1 c. salad oil or olive oil

Combine vegetables in a large bowl. In a smaller bowl, mix together remaining ingredients with an electric mixer. Pour over vegetables. Marinate 2 hours before serving.

THE "NO I" SAMPLER

Designed by Eileen J. Bennett
of The Sampler House

DMC	Anchor*	
▲ 501	878	blue-green, dk.
× 502	877	blue-green
♥ 816	43	garnet
★ 3022	8581	brown-gray, med.
☆ 3045	888	yellow-beige, dk.
■ 3790	904	beige-gray, ul. dk.
○ 3721	896	pink, dk. (Smyrna cross stitch)
ss 676	891	old gold, lt.

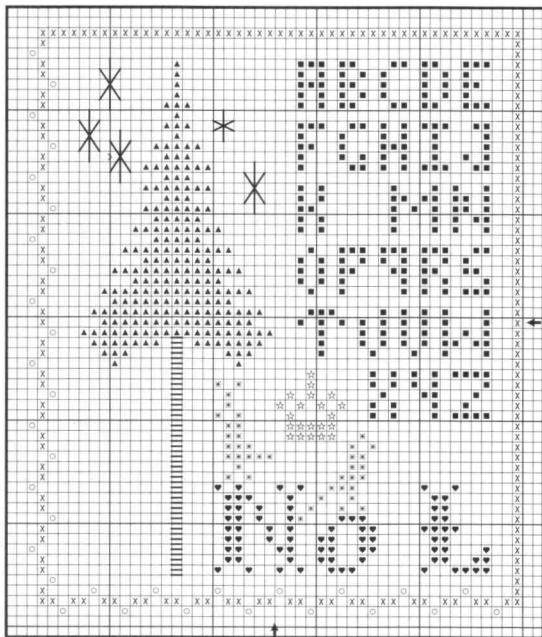
Fabric: 10" x 9" (26cm x 23cm) piece 27-count antique white linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.

Stitch count: 57H x 48W

Design size: 4¼" x 3¾" (11cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads, using two strands 3721/896. Work satin stitch for tree trunk, using two strands 3790/904. Work straight stitch (ss) for stars, using two strands 676/891. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 3721/896. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.



©1999 The Sampler House

(Photo is on page 26.)

THE "NO I" SAMPLER

Sekas & Co.

Sue Stehle



This coffee cake recipe has been a favorite for many years. It makes a wonderful addition to our Christmas brunch.

Sour Cream Coffee Cake

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1 c. margarine | 2 c. sugar |
| 2 eggs | 1 c. sour cream |
| 1 tsp. vanilla | |
| 2 c. flour | |
| ¼ tsp. salt | |
| 1 tsp. baking powder | |
| 1 c. chopped pecans | |
| 4 Tbsp. brown sugar | |
| 1 tsp. cinnamon | |

In a large mixing bowl, cream margarine, sugar, and eggs. Add sour cream and vanilla. Sift together flour, salt, and baking powder and add to batter, mixing well. In a small bowl, mix together pecans, brown sugar, and cinnamon for topping. Pour half of batter into a greased and floured tube pan, then topping, then the other half of batter. Bake 60–65 minutes in 350° oven.

WATERCOLOUR MITTEN

Designed by Sue Stehle
of Sekas & Co.

The Caron Collection Watercolours

- | | |
|--------|-------------|
| × 0000 | natural |
| ♥ 045 | flame |
| 083 | pine forest |

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 10-count Heatherfield from Wichel Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 41H x 38W

Design size: 4⅞" x 3⅞" (10cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch, using one strand of Watercolours. **[NOTE:** Watercolours is a three-ply thread. Separate and use one ply (strand).] Work knitted stitch where \ and / appear, using one strand 083. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger was made using 045.

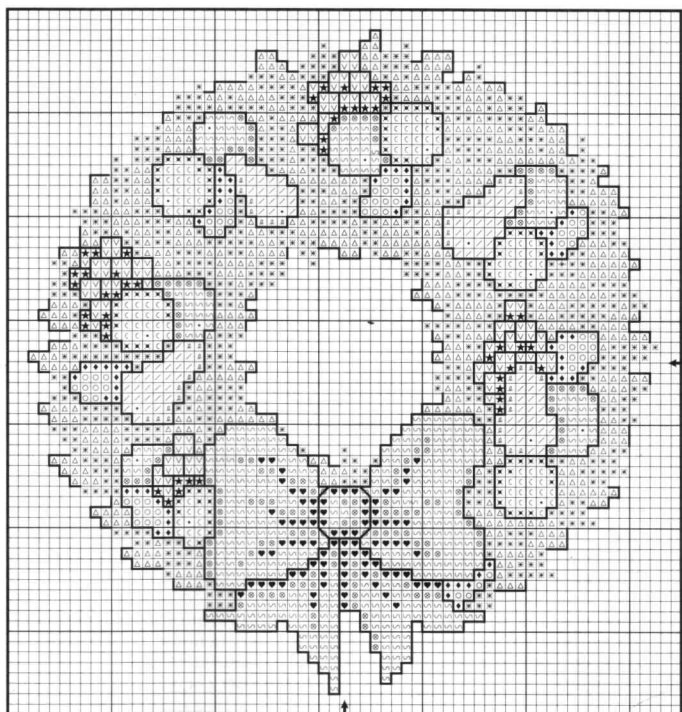
Serendipity Designs

Carolyn L. Meacham

Because my family lives very close to Williamsburg, the traditions there have always played a large part in our Christmas. Beginning with the Grand Illumination, Williamsburg is frequently visited during the Christmas season. I'm particularly fond of the decorations that make use of live greenery, fruit, nuts, etc.; and my ornament design is a typical Virginia door wreath. Colonial hospitality is another big part of our tradition. At parties and after caroling, wassail makes a wonderfully warming drink and spices the air with the smell of Christmas. This recipe is a family favorite.



Serendipity Designs
11301 International Drive
Richmond, VA 23113
e-mail: cmmeacham@aol.com
website: www.serendipitydesigns.com



(Photo is on page 8.)

DELLA ROBIA WREATH

Virginia Wassail

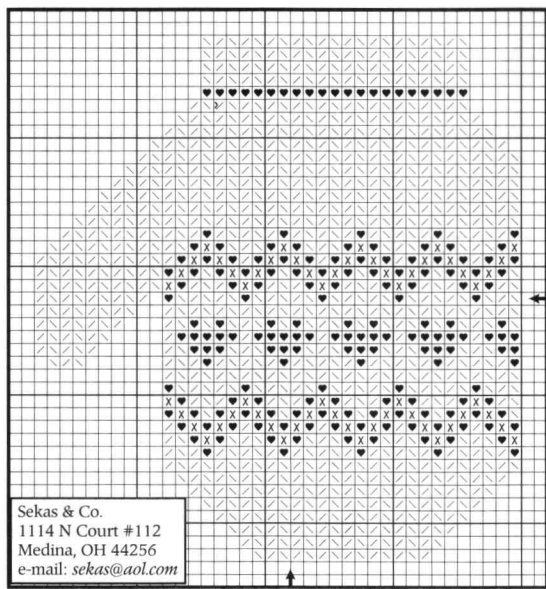
- 1 gal. apple cider
- 1 (6-oz.) can frozen lemonade
- 1 (6-oz.) can frozen orange juice
- 4 sticks cinnamon
- 4 whole cloves
- 1 tsp. nutmeg
- 1 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- Rum to taste (optional)
- Orange and lemon slices for garnish

Heat first seven ingredients almost to a boil and simmer 30-40 minutes. Add oranges and lemons a few minutes before serving to heat. Add rum if desired. Cinnamon sticks make nice stir sticks for the punch cups.

DELLA ROBIA WREATH

Designed by Carolyn L. Meacham
of Serendipity Designs

- | DMC | Anchor* | |
|---------|---------|----------------|
| • blanc | 2 | white |
| ○ 727 | 293 | topaz, vy. lt. |
| ◆ 725 | 305 | topaz |
| ∨ 554 | 95 | violet, lt. |
| ★ 553 | 98 | violet, med. |
| ☆ 321 | 47 | red |



Sekas & Co.
1114 N Court #112
Medina, OH 44256
e-mail: sekas@aol.com

(Photo is on page 10.)

WATERCOLOUR MITTEN

(Continued on page 90)

(Continued from page 89)

816	43	garnet
816	45	garnet, dk.
816	43	garnet
742	303	tangerine, lt.
741	304	tangerine, med.
472	253	avocado, ul. lt.
471	265	avocado, vy. lt.
320	215	pistachio, med.
319	1044	pistachio, vy. dk.
bs 947	330	burnt orange
bs 470	266	avocado, lt.
bs 552	99	violet, dk.

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece
32-count driftwood Belfast* linen
from Zweigart*
Stitch count: 64H x 61W
Design size: 4" x 3 7/8" (10cm x 10cm)

947	330	oranges
814	45	bow, apples
742	303	lemons
552	99	grapes
319	1044	wreath greenery

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:
470 266 pearls

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 642/392 and Kreinik 002HL Fine Braid #8. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Sheepish Designs

Dawn Bradford



This is one of my favorite cookies for Christmas or just anytime—I always make double batches for Christmas giving.

Chocolate Cream-Cheese Cookies

- 1/2 c. butter or margarine
- 1/2 c. shortening
- 1 (3-oz.) pkg. cream cheese
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 2 Tbsp. milk
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 oz. unsweetened chocolate, melted
- 2 1/4 c. flour
- 1 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 3/4 c. chopped pecans

Cream butter, shortening, cream cheese, and sugar together. Add egg, salt, milk, and vanilla; mix well. Stir in melted chocolate. Sift flour with baking powder and add to batter a little at a time, mixing well. Stir in nuts. Drop by teaspoons onto cookie sheet. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes. Makes 5 dozen.

CROWN HIM LORD

Designed by Dawn Bradford
of Sheepish Designs

DMC Anchor*
950 4146 flesh
3773 1008 flesh, med.

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- 0420 gold leaf
- 0410 tarnished gold
- 0510 cinnamon
- 0250 cornflower
- 0370 poinsettia

Fabric: 8" x 9" (20cm x 23cm) piece 35-count 18th century grape linen from R & R Reproductions

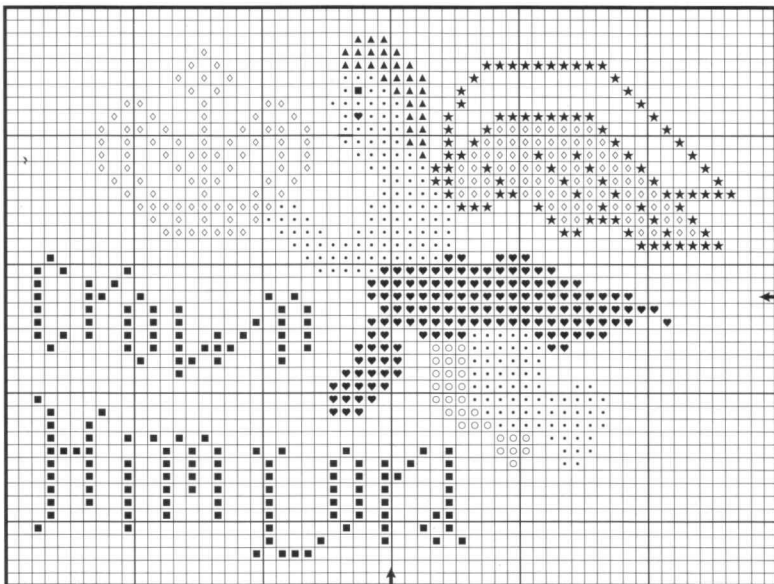
Stitch count: 41H x 55W

Design size: 2 3/8" x 3 1/4" (6cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work vertical satin stitch to fill upper wing, using two strands 0410. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and tassels were made using 833/874 and 832/907. Knots were tied in the cording at each corner of the ornament before the cording was attached. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Turn to page 92 for tassel-making how-tos.

Sheepish Designs
15120 Huntersville-Concord Road
Huntersville, NC 28078
e-mail: sheepish@mindspring.com



(Photo is on page 8.)

CROWN HIM LORD

Shepherd's Bush Printworks

Teri Richards and
Tina Richards
Herman



NOEL

Designed by Teri Richards
of Shepherd's Bush Printworks

The Caron Collection Impressions

- | | |
|--------|----------|
| x 0076 | navy |
| ♥ 2001 | burgundy |
| ■ 1122 | brown |
| ○ 1142 | gold |

The Thread Gatherer Sheep's Silk

- ☆ 039 dark forest

Shepherd's Bush Silver Charm

- ▲ folk heart

Fabric: 9" x 9" (23cm x 23cm) piece 19-count 18th century green linen from R & R Reproductions

Stitch count: 31H x 31W

Design size: 3 1/3" x 3 1/3" (8cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Attach charm, using one strand of matching floss.

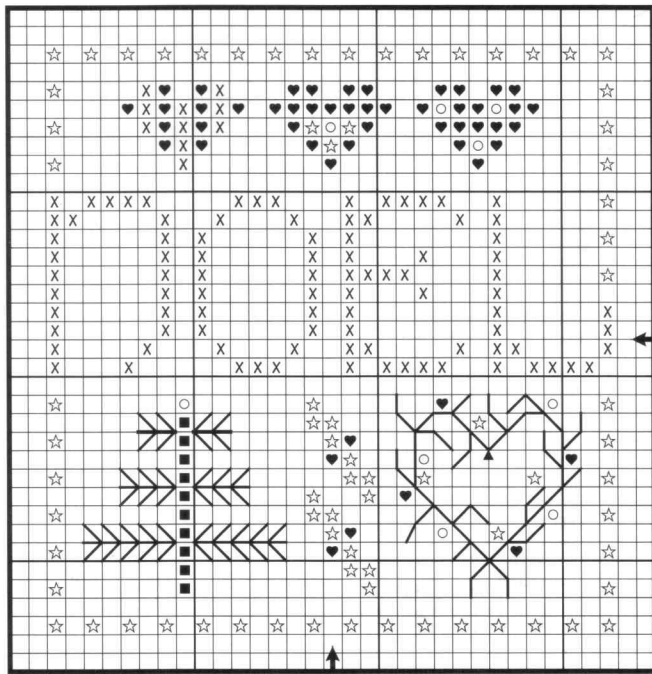
Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using The Caron Collection 5004 Impressions. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Date Cookies

- 1 c. butter
- 1 1/2 c. sugar
- 2 c. chopped dates
- 2 eggs, well beaten
- 2 Tbsp. cream
- 1 tsp. salt
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 4 c. Kellogg's® Rice Crispies®
- 1/2 c. chopped nuts, optional

Melt butter, sugar, and dates in an electric frying pan. Quickly add eggs before mixture gets too hot. Add milk, salt, and vanilla and cook until mixture pulls away from sides of pan. Turn off heat and add Rice Crispies® and nuts. Butter your hands and form mixture into balls. Roll in powdered sugar or coconut and chill. Enjoy!

Shepherd's Bush
220 24th Street
Ogden, UT 84401



(Photo is on page 28.)

NOEL

TASSEL-MAKING HOW-TOS

Materials:

One skein of floss (**NOTE:** Refer to ornament color code for specific color and fiber used.)

Square piece sturdy cardboard, approximately 1" larger than desired finished size of tassel

Hand-sewing needle

Scissors

1. Cut two 6" (15cm) lengths of floss from full skein, to be used for tying top of tassel.

2. Wrap remaining floss around cardboard, referring to Illustration 1 and being careful not to bend cardboard by wrapping floss too tightly.

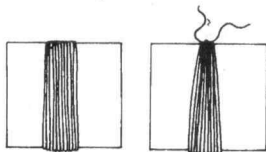
3. Slip one 6" (15cm) length of floss under wrapped floss at top edge of cardboard and tie securely, referring to Illustration 2. Do not trim floss tails.

4. Carefully remove cardboard.

5. Referring to Illustration 3, wind second 6" (15cm) length of floss around neck of tassel, $\frac{1}{4}$ "- $\frac{1}{2}$ " (7mm-13mm) from top of tassel. Thread needle with floss tail and wrap around tie several times, referring to Illustration 4. Bury floss end in tassel. Repeat for remaining floss tail.

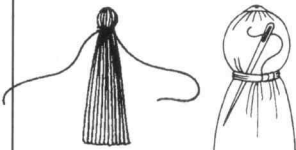
6. Cut along bottom of tassel through all fibers. Trim bottom of tassel to desired length and so that floss is even.

7. Attach tassel to ornament, using floss tail at top of tassel to secure.



ILL. 1

ILL. 2



ILL. 3

ILL. 4



COMPLETED TASSEL

Simply Stephanie

Stephanie Pearson

Many years ago when my sister Kristine and I were still small, we spent many snowy winter days occupied at our mother's idea of making cookies.

One of our favorite recipes was the one for delicate sugar-rolled butter cookies. As the snowflakes fall, I hope you will also have a chance to try them.



Snowfall Sugar Cookies

1 c. margarine

1 c. powdered sugar

1 c. granulated white sugar

1 c. oil

2 eggs

1 tsp. vanilla

4 c. flour 1 tsp. baking soda

1 tsp. salt 1 tsp. cream of tartar

Extra granulated sugar for rolling cookies

Cream first five ingredients. Add vanilla. Sift together remaining ingredients and add to creamed mixture. Chill dough for one hour. Roll dough into 1" balls and then roll in granulated sugar. Place on a greased cookie sheet 2" apart and flatten using the bottom of a glass. Bake for 8-10 minutes in a 350° oven. Makes 2 dozen cookies.

1999 CHRISTMAS SNOWFLAKE ORNAMENT

Designed by Stephanie Pearson of Simply Stephanie

DMC Anchor®

■ 3362	263	pine green, dk.
☆ 3363	262	pine green, med.
♥ 3328	1024	salmon, med. dk.
× 3689	49	mauve, lt.
bs 3371	382	black-brown

Fabric: 4½" x 4½" (11cm x 11cm) 14-count piece brown perforated paper

Stitch count: 30H x 30W

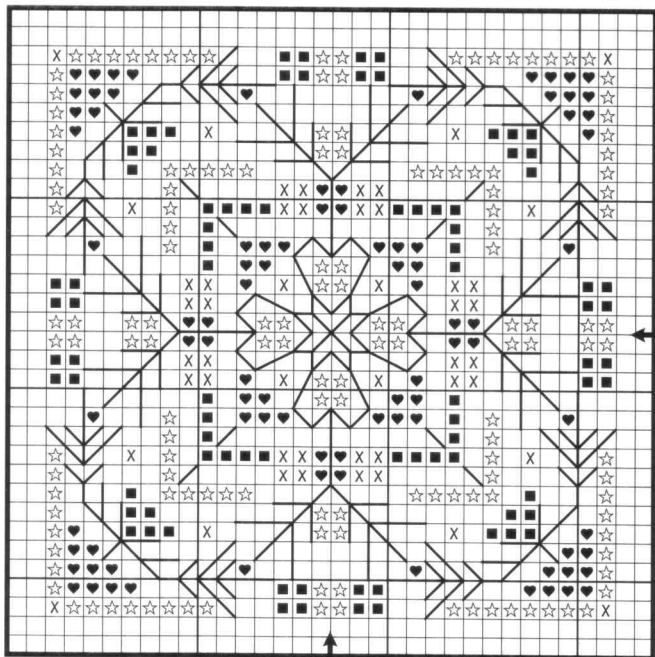
Design size: 2¼" x 2¼" (5cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch using two strands of floss. Backstitch (bs) using two strands 3371/382.

Beaded Ornament

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

■ 03035	royal green (antique)
---------	-----------------------



1999 CHRISTMAS SNOWFLAKE ORNAMENT

☆ 00561 ice green
♥ 02012 royal plum
x 00553 old rose

DMC Anchor®
bs 3371 382 black-brown

Fabric: 4½" x 4½" (11cm x 11cm) 14-count piece brown perforated paper
Stitch count: 30H x 30W

Sisters and Best Friends

Amy K. Bruecken
and Koneta A.
Hurlstone



For almost 20 years, we have met our very best buddies from college for what started as a \$2.00 gift exchange at Christmas. Each year we added to our tradition; and now we are up to a long weekend of intense Christmas shopping, leading up to an exchange of huge proportion and dinner out, just the four of us! One year we locked ourselves out of Robin's house between dinner and our present exchange so we drove to Amy's house, loaded the car with an extension ladder, and returned to Robin's house. Dawn, the athletic one in the foursome, climbed to an unlocked second-story window and let us all in! Not easy to do in heels and a skirt! Robin (upper left) and Dawn (lower left) are our Christmas stars. The holiday would never be the same without their smiles, laughs, friendship, and love!

CHRISTMAS STAR

Designed by Amy K. Bruecken and Koneta A. Hurlstone of Sisters and Best Friends

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

▲ 1306 navy
♥ 2111 sky

Design size: 2¼" x 2¼" (5cm x 5cm)
Instructions: Attach beads, using two strands 3371/382. Backstitch using two strands 3371/382.

Finishing instructions: Trim ornament square from stitched design. Apply a thin layer of glue to wrong side of stitched ornament and center on Simply Stephanie 3" x 3" (8cm x 8cm) clay

• 1086 icicle
x 2156 hunter

DMC
+ 5284 metallic gold, dk.

Rainbow Gallery
Fiesta!
bs F716 crimson

Just My Imagination
Buttons
★ 3195 small red star

Sisters and Best Friends
Sterling Silver Charm
■ sisters

Fabric: 9" x 9" (22cm x 22cm) piece 28-count light cappuccino linen from R & R Reproductions
Stitch count: 44H x 40W
Design size: 3¼" x 2⅞" (8cm x 7cm)

ornament. If desired, insert a small amount of dried flowers, such as baby's breath, into glue between stitched ornament and clay ornament. Hanger was made using raffia.

Simply Stephanie
8803 E 16th Place
Indianapolis, IN
46219

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using two strands F716. Work French knot where • appears at intersecting grid lines, using four strands 1086 and wrapping floss around needle once. Attach button, using two strands F716. Attach charm, using two strands 5284 and tying a knot with floss tails.

Finishing instructions: Stitched design was placed inside a navy-check Original Tuck-A-Way® Mini Pillow from Olde Colonial Designs. Hanger was made using 1¼" (3cm)-wide navy organza ribbon.

Sisters and Best Friends
4332 Rugby Drive
Toledo, OH 43614
e-mail: A2B2C@ao.com



(Photo is on page 12.)

CHRISTMAS STAR

Something In Common

Barbara L. Peterson

A favorite family tradition at the Peterson household is the placing of a special ornament on the tree. This ornament was a gift to our sons by their grandmother Peterson fifteen years ago. The ornament is in the shape of a silver ball, and it has a button that turns on and from it comes wonderful chirping sounds as if birds had found a place to nest in the tree. Each year the boys' eyes widened in anticipation as the ball was placed on the tree, and



each year they are just as surprised when the chirping comes forth for the first time. Over the years, the sounds from this ornament have brought back pictures in our minds of a wonderful mother and grandmother, whose lap was always in need of a little boy and whose eyes twinkled like Santa's when she smiled. Grandma has been gone from us for ten years, but her memory lives on every year during the holiday season.

PEACEFUL RETREAT

Designed by Barbara L. Peterson
of Something In Common

DMC Anchor®

ecru 387	ecru
■ 310 403	black
● 434 310	brown, lt.
☆ 470 266	avocado, lt.
♥ 816 43	garnet
◎ 898 380	coffee brown, vy. dk.
✱ 934 862	avocado black
▲ 3051 845	green-gray, dk.

Fabric: 9" x 10" (23cm x 25cm) piece

32-count natural light linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 42H x 61W

Design size: 2 5/8" x 3 7/8" (7cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

ecru	387	wisps of smoke, cabin
310	403	deer antlers
816	43	lettering, date

Finishing instructions: Four 1 1/2" (4cm)-wide strips of complementary fabric were sewn together to create a frame for the stitched piece. Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Trim was purchased.

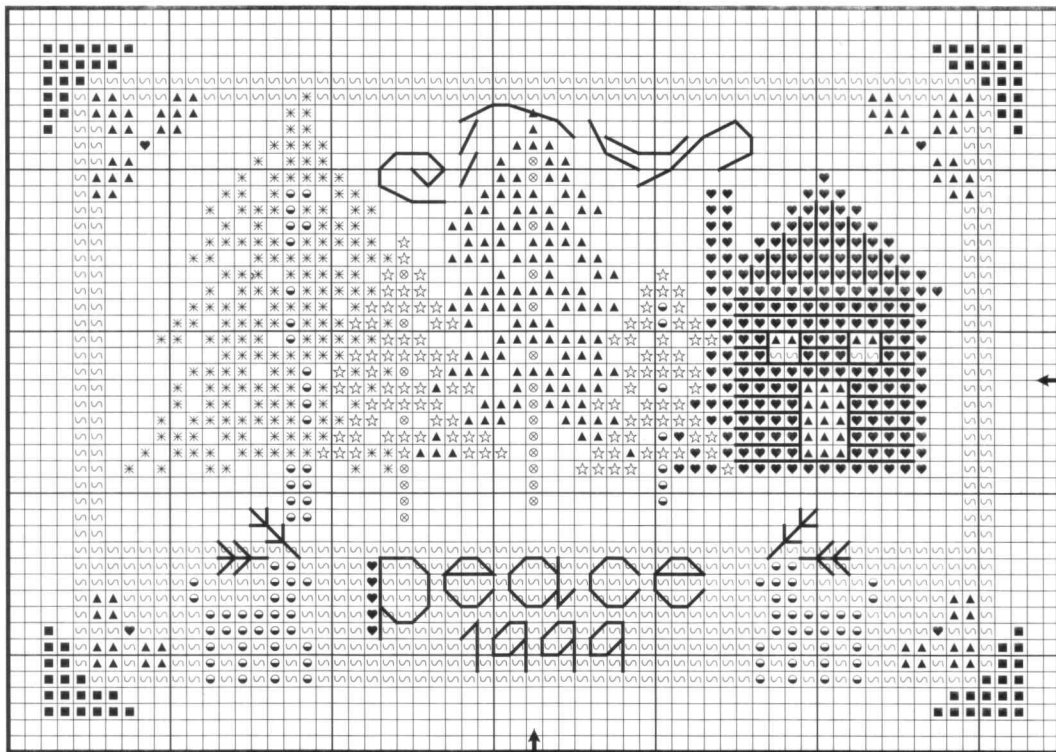
Something In Common

Post Office Box 872

Wausau, WI 54402-0872

e-mail: SICBP@aol.com

website: <http://members.aol.com/SICBP/index.html>



The Stitcher's Habit

Carol Scott Higeli



I have so many happy childhood memories of Christmas. I used to love to "secretly" tape-record the events of Christmas morning. One time, in particular, my beloved Nana Burgess (who's shortbread recipe is shared below) was recorded in this manner. When we played the tape back, she inquired who the Scottish lady was. Nana had not realized that she still had an accent, after arriving in Canada so many years ago.

Having no children of our own, my husband, Karl, and I have always enjoyed seeing our nephews and our friends' children at the holidays. A long-held wish for a child of our own is about to change our Christmas memories for the future. Karl and I have decided to adopt a baby girl from China. We are going through the process now and hope to travel to China to complete this amazing journey in the spring/summer of 2000.

I share with you this ornament design that reflects my wishes for you all—that you may look forward with hope in your hearts to this season of miracles and beyond to the new millennium. May the year 2000 be one of good health and good fortune for you and your families.

Traditional Scottish Shortbread

- 4 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 lb. butter
- ¾ c. fruit sugar (or extra fine sugar)
- ½ c. cornstarch
- ½ tsp. salt

Mix together above ingredients and place in a baking pan. Prick with a fork. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes until slightly brown. Sprinkle with additional fruit sugar and cut when cool.

ONE STARRY NIGHT

Designed by Carol Scott Higeli
of The Stitcher's Habit

DMC	Anchor*	
■ 310	403	black
• 822	390	beige-gray, lt.
∇ 926	850	gray-green, dk.
l 926	850	gray-green, dk.
○ 3023	899	brown-gray, lt.
bs 844	1041	beaver gray, ul. dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4

× 102 Vatican gold

Kreinik Blending Filament

/ 085 peacock (half cross stitch)

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 28-count blue spruce Cashel® linen from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 38H x 28W

Design size: 2¾" x 2" (7cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of very fine braid. Work

half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of blending filament. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work small backstitch where ■ appears for eyes, using two strands 310/403. Work Algerian-eye stitch over four threads for center of large star, using one strand of very fine braid.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

310	403	nose
844	1041	bear
102		large star, border

Finishing instructions: An arched opening was cut in a piece of complimentary fabric, turning under cut edges and blind stitching to stitched ornament. Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger was made using ⅛" (3mm)-wide cream satin ribbon.

The Stitcher's Habit

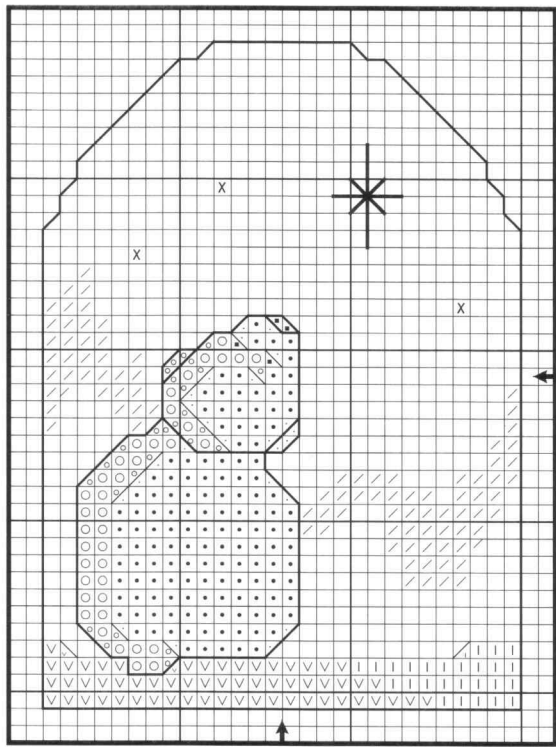
Post Office Box 86

Greenbank, Ontario L0C 1B0

Canada

e-mail: carol@stitchershabbit.com

website: www.stitchershabbit.com



(Photo is on page 22.)

ONE STARRY NIGHT

The Stitchworks, Ltd.

Cindy Morrill



We always have a house full of family and friends for the holidays, and exchanging ornaments and stories are a big part of our season. David's stories have been of growing up in Alaska and having moose in the back and front yards. I didn't believe the stories until we both went to Alaska and I saw them up close. Since then, for the past few Christmases, moose have become a symbol of Christmas cheer around our home with everyone searching for a small moose gift to exchange. For the past twenty years, I have made ornaments for our families and friends; and I always pick a theme to work with. When we did the moose theme, everyone loved them and asked for more! Now it's become an annual tradition to see who can find or make the most unique moose ornament. Our college-age children came up with the best ones last year, but I think David and I will have them beat with this ornament! This design is taken in part from our series of "Malcolm the Moose" cards and chart-packs, and I hope you and your family enjoy it. Have a merry "Chris-Moose" and a very happy holiday!

Moose Drop Cookies

- 2 c. sugar
- 4 Tbsp. cocoa
- 1 stick (½ c.) butter
- ½ c. (small can) evaporated milk
- ½ c. chunky peanut butter
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 3 c. oatmeal
- Nuts and coconut (optional)

Mix first four ingredients together in a large saucepan and boil for 2 minutes. Remove from stove and add peanut butter and vanilla. Mix well. Pour over

oatmeal in a large bowl. Nuts and coconut may be added if you like. Drop by spoonfuls onto wax paper and let stand for a few hours. Makes about 50 drops.

SNOW MOOSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Designed by Cindy and David Morrill
of The Stitchworks Ltd.

DMC	Anchor*
■ 310	403 black
× 318	235 steel gray, lt.
◆ 414	235 steel gray, dk.
♥ 498	1005 red, dk.
▲ 500	683 blue-green, vy. dk.
● 501	878 blue-green, dk.
★ 725	305 topaz
● 801	359 coffee, dk.
blanc	2 white

Kreinik Blending Filament
032 pearl

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
ls 005 black

Mill Hill Glass Treasures
☆ 12166 crystal bright large star

The Stitchworks Ltd. Buttons
* JC tiny Christmas tree lights (7)

Fabric: 11" x 11" (28cm x 28cm) piece 25-count Wedgwood blue Lugana® from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 38H x 47W

Design size: 3 ½" x 3 ¾" (8cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Cross stitch over two threads where ○ appears, using two strands blanc/2 and one strand 032. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Work long stitch (ls) for string of lights, using one strand of very fine braid. Attach buttons, using one strand of very fine braid. Attach treasure, using one strand of matching floss.

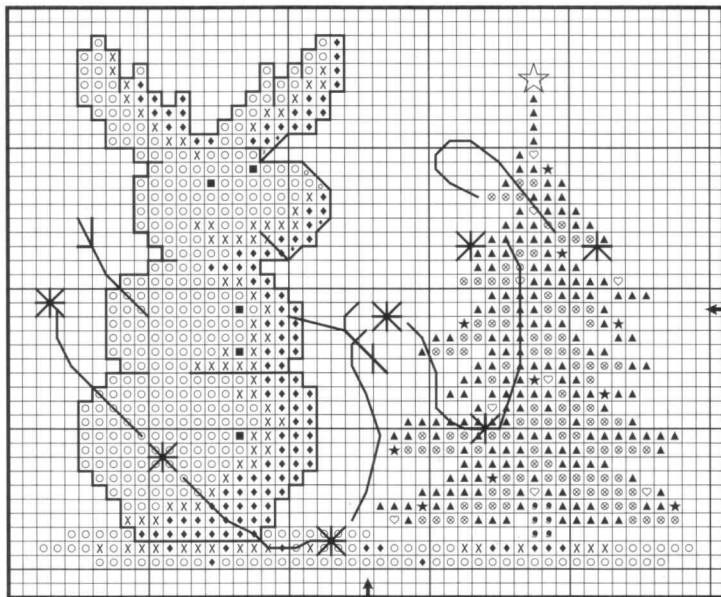
Backstitch instructions:

318 235 snow moose
801 359 arms

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page ?? Twisted-cording trim was made using 501/878 and Kreinik 850 Very Fine Braid #4. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Finished by Kalagian Needlework Services

The Stitchworks, Ltd.
6011 South Sheridan Road
Tulsa, OK 74145
e-mail: stitchworks@earthlink.net
website: <http://www.stitchworks.com>



(Photo is on page 24.)

SNOW MOOSE CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Sue Lentz Needlework

Sue Lentz

Our house is known for its Christmas decorations—there are lots of them. When the kids were home, decorating the house was almost as important as Christmas Eve (well, probably to me, not to them). Dad would make a special trip to the delis in Green Bay (85 miles away) where all kinds of favorite foods were selected. We would munch on our smorgasbord while we decorated. The weekend before all the decorations went up, my husband, Ron, and son, Wayne, would collect cedar boughs from the swamps; and I would make yards and yards of garlands. The house smelled great. On decorating weekend, Ron and Wayne were in charge of decorating the tree, then only one, and decorated with old-fashioned handmade ornaments and tinsel. My daughter, Shelly, and I decorated the rest of the house. Each of the kids had a small tree of his or her own in their bedrooms that they and Dad had cut down on our property. They still have the ornaments. Grandma made it a tradition to make one for them each year, most of them cross-stitched. The kids are grown and are on their own, but Ron and I still do lots of decorating. Decorations have accumulated over the years, the garlands are now artificial, and we've added another real tree; but I still have a few rooms that could use more. Isn't it great that Christmas never stops, especially its memories.

Cashew/Vegetable Salad

- 3 c. bite-size broccoli
- 3 c. bite-size cauliflower
- 1 bell pepper, cut into bite-size pieces (Use the different colors to match the occasion: red for Christmas, yellow for summer, and green when you want to stretch the budget.)
- ½ c. mayonnaise
- 1 Tbsp. mustard (any flavor will do)
- ½ c. cashews (or more—do you ever have enough cashews?)

Mix together all ingredients except cashews. Put cashews on right before serving as they will get soggy in the dressing. I usually sprinkle them on top at the last minute. This is a great side salad or makes a great light lunch.

PERSIAN HOLIDAY

Designed by Sue Lentz
of Sue Lentz Needlework

Needle Necessities

Pearl 8 Overdyed

8196 renaissance

Kreinik Fine Braid #8

051HL sapphire hi lustre
002HL gold hi lustre

Rainbow Gallery

Patina*

PA261 oregano

Rainbow Gallery

Flair*

F579 purple, dk.
F512 antique mauve, dk.

Mill Hill Petite Glass Beads

- 42029 tapestry teal

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 25-count pewter Lugana* from Zweigart*

Stitch count: 64H x 64W

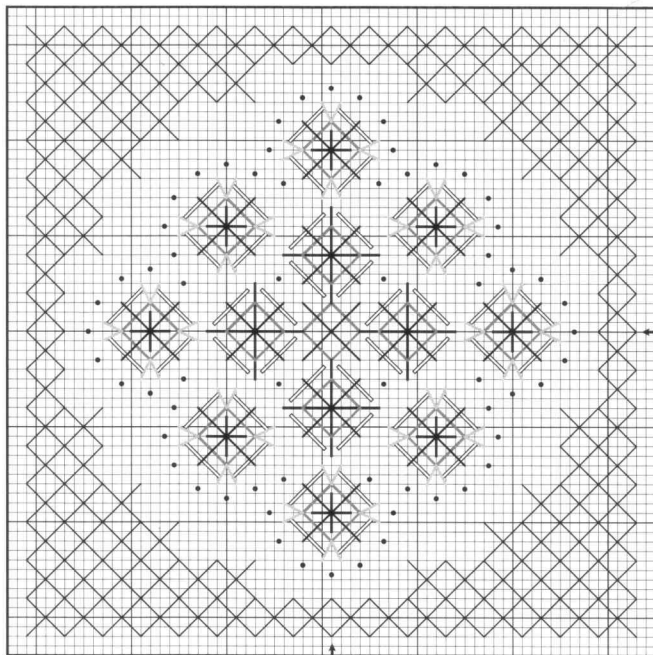
Design size: 2½" x 2½" (7cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch border over four threads, using one strand 8196. For woven rice stitch, use one full strand of floss unless otherwise indicated for the following: 051HL for thin solid lines, F579 for gray lines, F512 for open lines, 002HL for heavy solid lines, and PA261 (one strand, dampened and separated) for light gray lines. Work Step 1 of woven rice stitch (Version A) for center motif. Work woven rice stitch (Version A) for middle motifs. Work woven rice stitch (Version B) for outer motifs. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Braided trim and self tassel were made using F579, 051HL, PA261, and 8196.

Sue Lentz Needlework
W12219 Eagle Road
Athelstone, WI 54104
e-mail: sln@cybrazn.com
website: suelentz.com

(Photo is on page 9.)



PERSIAN HOLIDAY

Suzann's Designs

Suzann Miller



Christmas for me has always been special. As a child, my father would make us eat breakfast before seeing the tree because he could never get us four children to stop playing long enough to eat. Then as my children grew, my husband, Jerry, and I would have to get up and make lots of noise to wake them early so we could all play! I have always decorated way too much—lots of theme trees, lots of meaningful ornaments, even outside decorations! The dining room always has a large tree decorated with tea balls, everything from Tiffany to garage sale tea balls! Under that tree is the book *A Cup of Christmas Tea* with the teapot, cups, and saucers. An antique tablecloth that belonged to my grandmother serves as the tree skirt. Now we have five beautiful grandchildren to share our Christmas fun—we may have to be a few days early or a few days late to be with them as they live from Florida to Iowa, but Christmas is a special “must-be-there” time for our family. Lots to eat, lots of jokes, songs, fun for everyone! Merry Christmas!

HOLLY CHRISTMAS

Designed by Suzann Miller
of Suzann's Designs

Weeks Dye Works Hand Dyed Floss

- ♥ 2266 Turkish red
- 1279 holly
- × 1279 holly (Smyrna cross stitch)

Mill Hill Glass Pebble Beads

- 05025 ruby

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm)
piece 28-count cream Cashel®
linen from Zweigart®

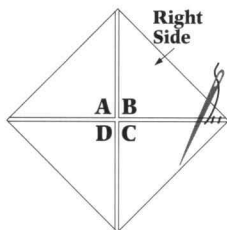
Stitch count: 69H x 69W

Design size: 5" x 5" (12cm x 12cm)

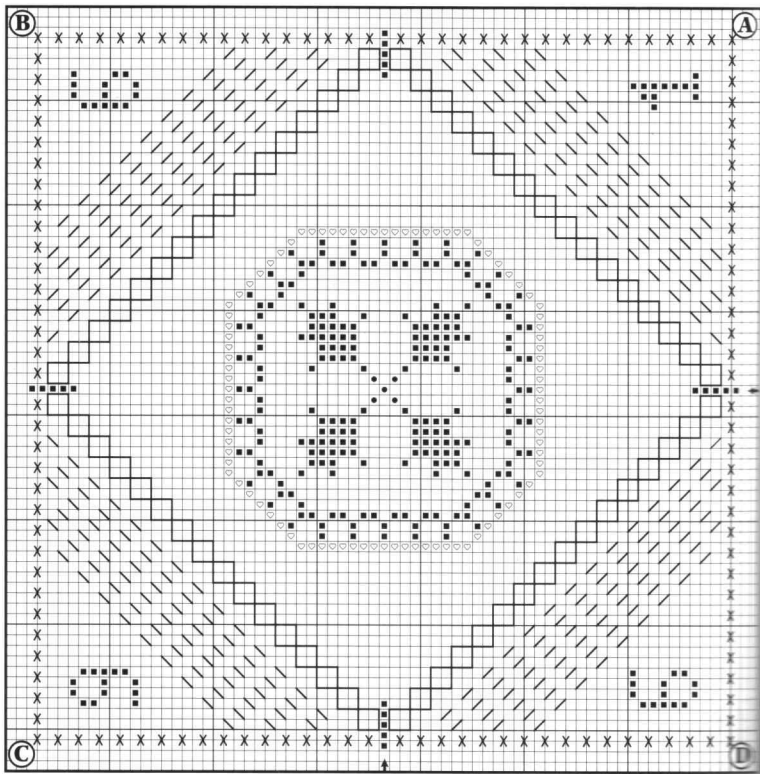
Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads for border, using two strands of floss. Work diagonal running stitch over two threads and under two threads for broken lines in corners, using one strand 1279. Work faggot stitch over four threads, using two strands 2266 and pulling each leg. Work bead cluster where five ● appear in center of ornament, using two strands 2266. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Trim fabric to within ½" (13mm) of stitched area and fold under along Smyrna cross stitches, mitering corners. Fuse in place, using fusible web strips and following manufacturer's instructions. With right-side down and referring to illustration at right, bring corners together in center back. Weave openings closed, catching legs of Smyrna cross

stitches and using two strands 1279. Fill with polyester stuffing before closing top-center opening. Twisted-cording hanger and embellishment were made using DMC 30501 and 30666 Rayon Floss. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Two small jingle bells (one red and one green) were purchased. Insert ends of hanger and embellishment into seams and weave closed.



Suzann's Designs
135 Northwest Drive
Waukee, IA 50263
e-mail: smiller47@compuserve.com



(Photo is on page 12.)

HOLLY CHRISTMAS

© 1999 Suzann's Designs

The Sweetheart Tree™

Sandie Vanosdall

Several years ago, our family decided to forgo the snowy, December Illinois weather and spend a Christmas vacation in Palm Springs, California. Our plan was to play golf, swim, and visit with relatives who lived nearby. We rented a wonderful condo with its own private pool in the side yard and headed west for a different type of Christmas. Being the traditionalist that I am, however, I still wanted a Christmas tree under which "Santa" could put the presents for our children. I didn't want to go through "real tree" mess while I was supposed to be vacationing, and I really didn't want to look like "the Griswolds" on one of their infamous "vacations" by hauling along one of the large artificial trees that we often use as decorations in our home in Illinois. But, at the same time, I did want to maintain the traditions of our previous family Christmases. From past trade shows, I had acquired a tiny artificial tree that only stood about three-feet tall. It was a skinny little thing, hardly worthy of Christmas; but I thought with a little help it just might work. I packed the tree into a big box with an assortment of my cross-stitched ornaments, a string of twinkle lights, several sprigs of artificial red "berries," and some sparkly gold stars and shipped it ahead of us to the condo. The evening of our arrival when everyone was settled in their rooms, I snuck out to the living room and decorated the little tree. It started out skinny and rather plain; but when it was decorated, it was beautiful, the perfect thing to keep our traditions complete. Christmas was wonderful, probably one of our most memorable yet; and it was quite a change for this Midwestern girl to put the roast in the oven and go jump into the pool!



TEENIE CHRISTMAS ANGEL FOR 1999

Designed by Sandra Cox Vanosdall of The Sweetheart Tree™

DMC	Anchor®
○ ecru	387 ecru
△ 224	893 pink, lt.
◆ 613	831 drab brown, lt.
ℓ 927	848 gray-green, med.
- 948	1011 peach flesh, vy. lt.
bs 3768	779 gray-green, dk.
640	903 beige-gray, vy. dk.

Kreinek Blending Filament

032	pearl
014	sky blue

The Sweetheart Tree™ Sterling Silver Charms

× SV-CP182 holiday wreath

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm) 26-count silver lurex Jobelan from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 41H x 27W

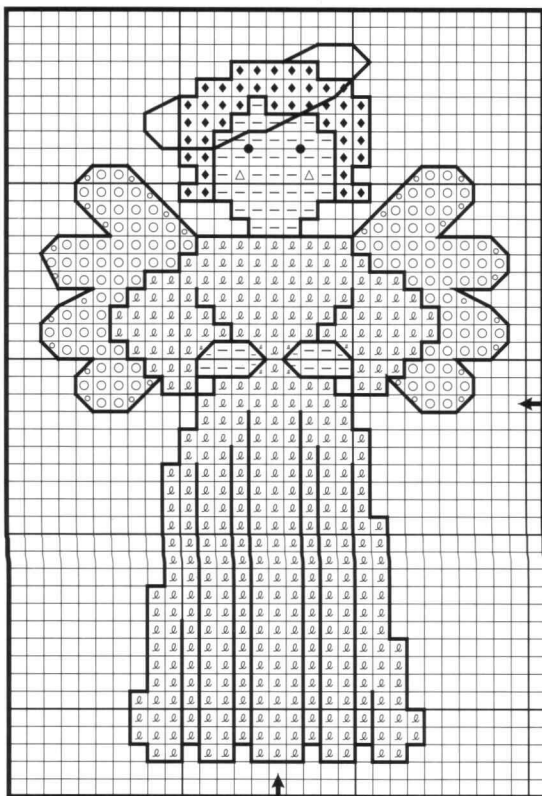
Design size: 3 1/4" x 2 1/8" (8cm x 5cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work half cross stitch over cross stitches in gown, using two strands 014. Work half cross stitch over cross stitches in wings, using two strands 032. Backstitch using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated. Work French knot where ● appears for eyes, using one strand 640/903 and wrapping floss around needle once. Attach charm, using two strands 927/848. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

640	903	face, hands, hair
3768	779	halo (two strands), remainder of backstitch

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. White lace and metallic silver piping were purchased. Bow was made using 1/4" (6mm)-wide white and light blue satin ribbon.



Stitched by
Angie Minshall
Finished by
Jan Brownell

(Photo is on
page 16.)

The Sweetheart Tree™
1572 White Eagle Drive
Naperville, IL 60564
e-mail: Sweettetre@aol.com
website: www.SweetheartTree.com

Theron Traditions/ The Gentle Art

Catherine
C. Theron



Gumdrop Cookies (Kids love these!)

- 1 c. Crisco® shortening
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 1 c. white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 2 c. quick-cook oats
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 1 c. chopped "spiced" gumdrops

In a mixing bowl, thoroughly cream shortening and sugars. Add eggs and beat well. Add vanilla. Sift dry ingredients and add to creamed ingredients. Add oats and gumdrops. Mix well. Roll

into small balls and place on a greased cookie sheet. Flatten cookies with a fork. Bake at 375° for 10 minutes.

CHRISTMAS BASKET ORNAMENT

Designed by Catherine C. Theron
of Theron Traditions/The Gentle Art

Anchor® DMC

2 262	3363	loden green, med.
x 845	3051	fern green, med. dk.
▲ 861	3362	laurel green, med.
☆ 891	676	brass
○ 893	225	rose wine
v 894	224	rose wine, med. lt.
∕ 895	223	rose wine, med.
● 896	3721	rose wine, dk.
♥ 897	221	rose wine, vy. dk.
4 922	930	denim, dk.

Fabric: 9" x 8" (23cm x 20cm) piece 28-count white linen from Charles Craft, Inc.

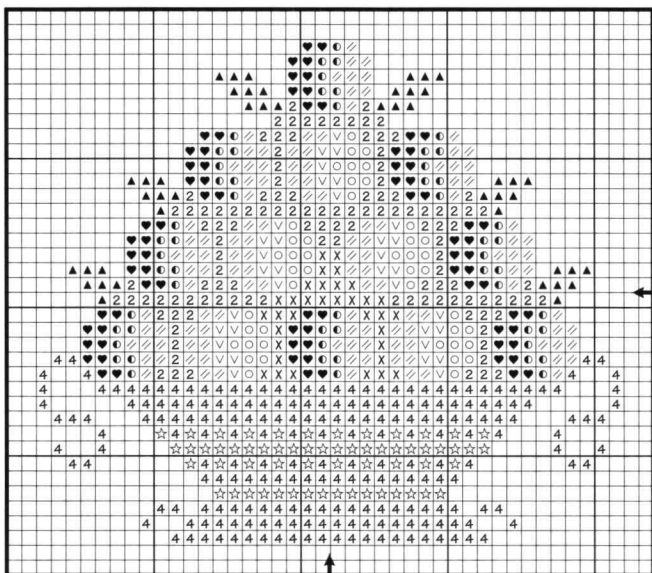
Stitch count: 40H x 34W

Design size: 27/8" x 2 1/2" (7cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim and self-tassel were made using 894/224, 895/223, and 896/3721. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Theron Traditions
500 Pequest Road
Stewartsville, NJ 08886



CHRISTMAS BASKET ORNAMENT

(Photo is on page 15.)

Thirteenth Colony

David McGukin



One of my favorite holiday memories is a new one. Last year, Thirteenth Colony was invited to submit a design for the *Just CrossStitch Christmas Ornaments* issue. While it was our pleasure to do so, we never dreamed the response from you, the stitching public, would be so overwhelming. The cards and notes of your appreciation helped brighten what might have been an otherwise less-than-merry Christmas. Since our daughters, Anna and Ada, were not to be with us until Christmas Eve and were to leave Christmas Day, we were not to have the long university-holiday vacation with them as we had grown accustomed over the last few years. My, how quickly they grow up and move on with their own lives! Yet, that is what we truly desire for them, isn't it? But Ardoth and I did want to take this opportunity to express our thanks to you for your reception of our work. We love designing new and exciting traditional things for your pleasure and are delighted to share our things with you. Who knows? Perhaps this could become a favorite holiday tradition.

This is a very old receipt. Note the simplicity of ingredients and the unusual mixing directions.

Original English Pound Cake

- 8 large eggs at room temperature
- 1 lb. sugar
- 1 lb. plain unsalted butter, softened to the consistency of mayonnaise (For a lemon cake, add the zest of 1 lemon to butter.)
- 1 lb. cake flour
- 1 Tbsp. sugar
- ½ tsp. salt

Combine sugar and eggs and beat until triple in volume (whole-egg meringue). Sift flour, sugar, and salt. Carefully fold in flour combination in thirds by hand. Fold approximately 1 c. batter into butter, then fold butter into remaining batter. (Work quickly and very gently so as not to deflate egg

mixture.) Pour into buttered and floured cake pan and bake at 325° for approximately one hour. Use toothpick test for doneness. Cool on wire rack. Serve and enjoy the true old-fashioned pound cake. After all, you used a pound of almost everything. Merry eating!

CHRISTMAS SACHET

Designed by David McGukin
of Thirteenth Colony

DMC	Anchor*	
• 612	832	drab brown, med.
☆ 676	891	old gold, lt.
■ 3828	373	hazelnut brown
♥ 3046	887	yellow-beige, med.
⊗ 370	888	mustard, med.

Fabric: 11" x 8½" (28cm x 24cm) piece 28-count lambswool linen from Wichel Imports, Inc.

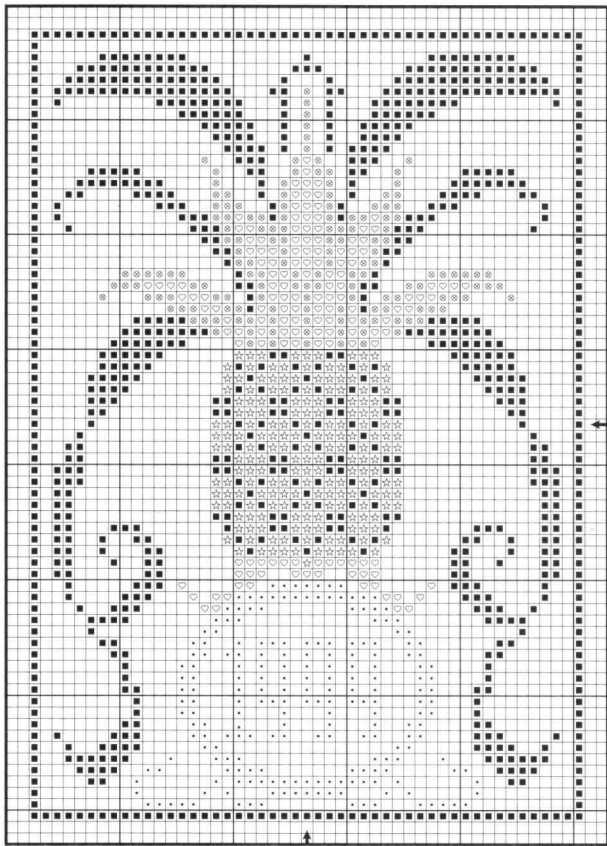
Stitch count: 69H x 49W

Design size: 5" x 3½" (13cm x 9cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss.

Finishing instructions: Place stitched ornament and 11" x 8½" (28cm x 24cm) piece of backing fabric with right sides together. Sew across top of ornament ½" (13mm) above stitching. Trim seam allowance to ½" (13mm). Turn right-side out and press. Trim bottom of ornament to 1½" (4cm) from stitching. Trim sides of ornament to 1" (2.5cm) from stitching. Place stitched piece atop 8½" x 5½" (22cm x 13cm) piece 28-count lambswool linen, aligning sides and bottom; pin in place. Using a ½" (13mm) seam allowance, sew through all thicknesses around sides and bottom of ornament to form a pocket. Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Kreinik antique-gold 4mm Torsade was used for trim.

Thirteenth Colony
1743 Baxter Road
Bremen, GA 30110
e-mail: Annhobbs@msn.com



(Photo is on page 21.)

CHRISTMAS SACHET

Threads Through Time

Nancy Sturgeon



Gently combine whipping cream and egg whites. Then add cool custard and vanilla. Pour over cake and let stand overnight in refrigerator.

Butterscotch sauce:

5 Tbsp. butter
1 c. brown sugar
¼ c. cream or milk
½ tsp. vanilla

Combine all ingredients in a saucepan. Boil 2 minutes. Serve hot over cool cake. (I double this recipe because I like a lot of sauce!)

♥ 632 936 coffee brown, dk.
○ 407 914 flesh, dk.
† 927 849 gray-green, med.

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece 35-count natural Northern Cross linen from Norden Crafts, Ltd.

Stitch count: 68H x 68W

Design size: 4" x 4" (10cm x 10cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work star stitch over eight threads for stars, using two strands 644/391. **NOTE:** Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 632/936. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Stitched and finished
by Nancy Sturgeon

CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Designed by Nancy Sturgeon
of Threads Through Time

DMC	Anchor*	
■ 895	1044	green, dk.
× 3045	888	yellow-beige, dk.
◆ 610	889	drab brown, vy. dk.
• 644	391	beige-gray, med.
+ 645	273	beaver gray, vy. dk.
= 3768	779	gray-green, dk.

Threads Through Time
450 Bedford Court
Naperville, IL 60540-7001
e-mail: Nthred@aol.com

We have always had a wonderful Christmas with our family living nearby. Our two daughters are now both married; and in 1998, our first grandchild was born. Jessica will be eighteen months old this Christmas, which should make it an extra-special fun time. Now, if I can only get her stocking stitched and finished by December 24th!

This recipe is a family favorite. I love the combination of the cool cake and custard with the hot butterscotch sauce poured on top.

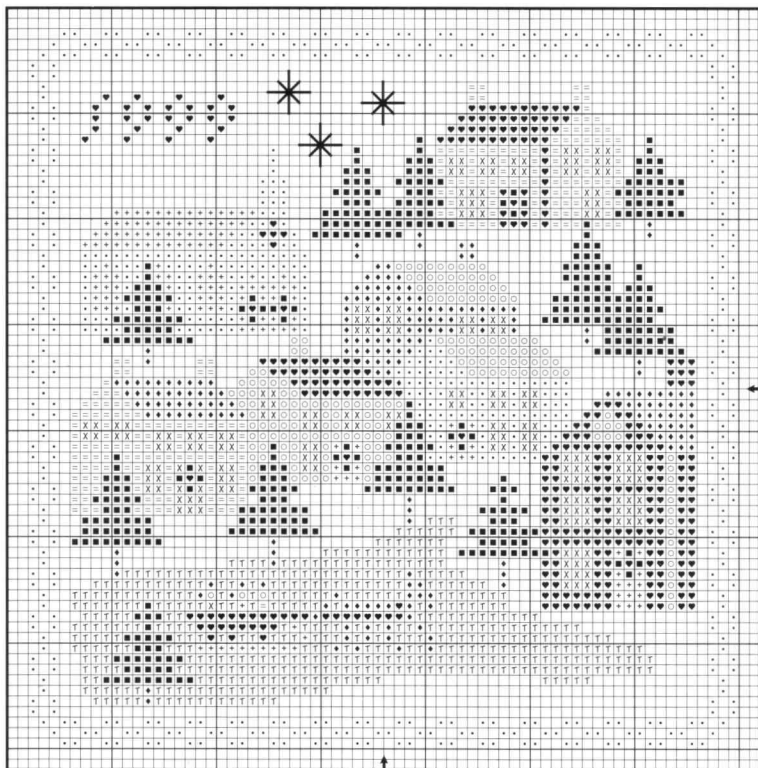
Angel-Food Ice-Box Cake

1 envelope Knox® gelatin
½ c. cold milk
3 egg yolks, beaten
1 c. sugar
1½ c. milk
2 loaves angel-food cake,
split
½ pt. whipping cream,
whipped stiff
3 egg whites, beaten
½ tsp. vanilla

Soak gelatin in ½ c. cold milk. Combine egg yolks, sugar, and 1½ c. milk in saucepan and cook on stove to make a custard. Add gelatin and let cool until it starts to set.

Line a 9" x 13" pan with angel food cake.

(Photo is on page 10.)



CHRISTMAS VILLAGE

Twisted Threads

Ruth A. Sparrow



Over the past several years, most of my Christmas holidays, as well as all other special days, have been spent at the home of a treasured friend, Karen Devanney and her family. Karen and her husband, Mike, along with Anne and Brian have welcomed me as part of their family. A collection of salt-glazed Santas adorn the mantle, Christmas trees are filled with special ornaments, laughter is abundant, and aromas of a plentiful feast fill the air. This year, I will have to travel further than "down the road," as Karen has recently moved to Houston. Traditionally, I have been responsible for baking a pie; and I've been wondering if she would like a cherry pie this year.

My sweet mother taught me how to make this pie many years ago, stressing that sour cherries must be used; and I have never deviated from this recipe.

Bette Sparrow's Cherry Pie

Crust:

- 3 oz. cream cheese
- 1 stick (½ c.) butter
- 1 c. flour

Mix butter and cream cheese together. Add flour. Divide in half and roll out. Put one crust in pie pan.

Pie:

- 1 can sour pitted cherries
- 1 c. sugar
- About 2 Tbsp. cornstarch

Boil together in a saucepan on stove until thick. Pour in crust. Add top crust. Sprinkle with additional sugar. Bake at 350° for about 40 minutes.

Twisted Threads
7013 Miami Avenue
Cincinnati, OH 45243
e-mail: TwThreads@aol.com
website: www.twistedthreads.com

ITTY BITTY JOY

Designed by Ruth A. Sparrow
of Twisted Threads

Anchor*	DMC	
● 878	501	pine, med. dk.
▲ 1005	816	cherry red, med.
♥ 1005	816	cherry red, med. (eyelet stitch)
× 1005	816	cherry red, med. (rice stitch)
★ 890	436	brass, lt. (eyelet stitch)
◆ 890	436	brass, lt. (rice stitch)
	391	linen
	1050	3781 tawny, med. dk.

Fabric: 8" x 8" (20cm x 20cm) piece 32-count natural light linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 70H x 70W

Design size: 2¼" x 2¼" (6cm x 6cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over one thread, using one strand of floss.

Special instructions:

Border—Work eyelet stitch over four threads for four corners, using one strand 391/3033 and pulling each leg. Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads

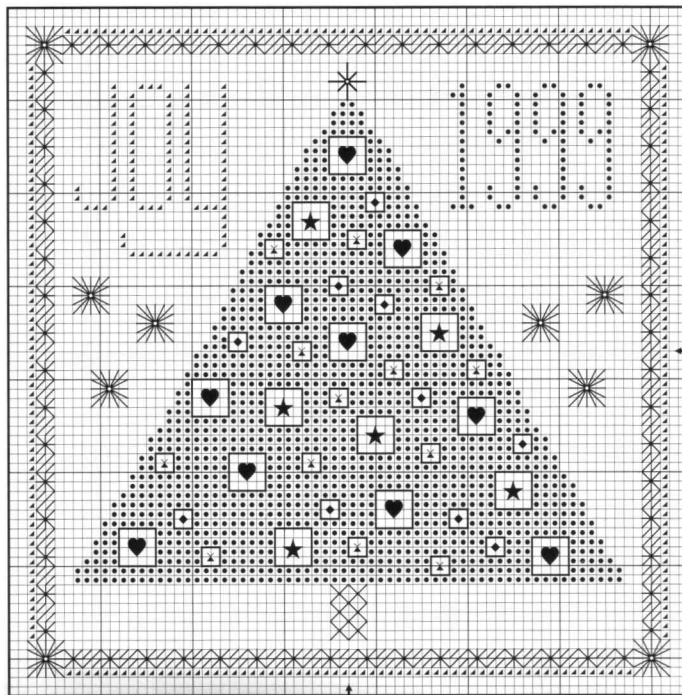
where ★ appears, using one strand 878/501. Work mini checker stitch over two threads, using one strand 391/3033.

Background—Work eyelet stitch over four threads on either side of tree, using one strand 391/3033 and pulling each leg.

Tree—Work Smyrna cross stitch over two threads for tree trunk, using one strand 1050/3781. Work diamond-eyelet stitch over four threads for star at top of tree, using one strand 890/436 and pulling each leg. Work eyelet stitch over four threads for ornaments, using one strand of floss and pulling each leg. Work rice stitch over two threads for ornaments, using one strand of floss.

Finishing instructions: Refer to flat ornament finishing instructions on page 61, insert a 1" (2.5cm)-wide gusset between ornament front and back and a square piece of 1" (2.5 cm)-wide Styrofoam®. Piping was made from backing fabric. Twisted-cording trim and hanger were made using 1005/816. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87. Hanger is held in place by a large, decorative, gold-ball straight pin, which was glued.

Finished by Sew It Seams



(Photo is on page 10.)

ITTY BITTY JOY

©1999 Ruth A. Sparrow Twisted Threads

Ursula Michael Designs

Ursula Michael

One very special Christmas, Santa brought my brother and me a shiny, new sled. It had smooth red runners and a golden wood seat.

I remember it was the largest gift box I had ever seen, and I wondered how Santa had managed to squeeze it down the chimney. We spent hours sledding and climbing the large hill that had two bumps and several trees as obstacles. I still have my sled. It's not shiny anymore, and it bears the scars of many downhill battles. We take it out every Christmas and decorate it with a big red bow. It stands on our front porch all winter as monument to our childhood days of amusement.



Peppermint-Stick Cookies

- 1 c. butter, softened
- 1 c. powdered sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 2 c. flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 4 oz. German sweet chocolate, melted
- 10 red, green, and white peppermints, crushed

Combine first three ingredients in a mixing bowl. Beat until fluffy. Add flour and baking soda. Mix well. Refrigerate 30 minutes. Roll 1 tsp. of dough into logs, about 2 1/2" inches long. Place on cookie sheet, 1 1/2" apart. Bake in a preheated oven at 350° for 10 minutes, until very pale at edges. Remove and let cool.

Dip one end of cookie into melted chocolate. Sprinkle with crushed peppermints. Let cool and store in airtight containers.

HOLIDAY SLED

Designed by Ursula Michael
of Ursula Michael Designs

- | DMC | Anchor® | |
|------|---------|------------------|
| 318 | 235 | steel gray, lt. |
| 5283 | 702 | metallic silver |
| 413 | 236 | pewter gray, dk. |
| 434 | 310 | brown, lt. |
| 436 | 363 | tan |
| 738 | 361 | tan, vy. lt. |

- | | | |
|--------|------|-----------------------|
| ▲ 931 | 1034 | antique blue, med. |
| + 3753 | 1031 | antique blue, vy. lt. |
| bs 310 | 403 | black |
| bs 898 | 380 | coffee brown, vy. dk. |

DMC Rayon **Anchor® Marlitt**

- ⊗ 30321 843 red
- ⊗ 30351 831 coral
- ⊗ 30814 894 garnet, dk.
- ⊗ 35200 800 snow white

Fabric: 9" x 7" (23cm x 18cm) piece 32-count water lily Royal Crown linen from Wichelt Imports, Inc.

Stitch count: 69H x 44W

Design size: 4 1/8" x 2 3/4" (11cm x 7cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss or one strand of rayon floss. When two

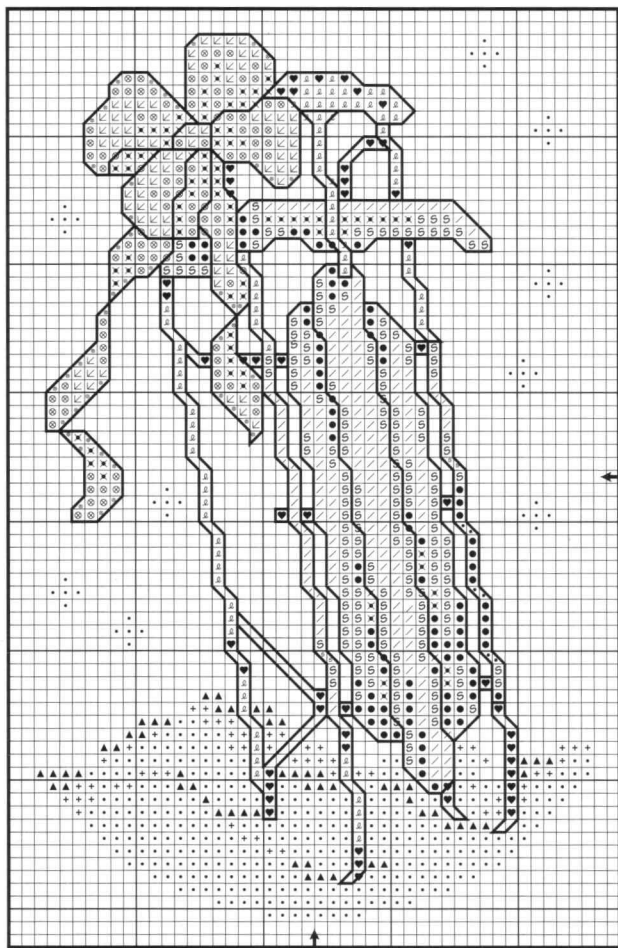
colors are bracketed together, use one strand of each. Backstitch using one strand of floss.

Backstitch instructions:

- | | | |
|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 898 | 380 | wooden part of sled |
| 310 | 403 | remainder of backstitch |

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 30321/843 and 5283/702. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

Ursula Michael Designs
545 Bigelow Road
Colchester, CT 06415
e-mail: ursula@snet.net
website: www.ursulamichael.com



(Photo is on page 25.)

HOLIDAY SLED

The Vermillion Stitchery

Donna Vermillion
Giampa

This recipe is the best one I've ever found for cookie-cutter sugar cookies to be decorated. Opal Knoll worked for our father in his pharmacy for many years and was known for her wonderful cooking. She's in her 80s now.



Opal Knoll's Crisp White Sugar Cookies

- 4 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1½ c. sugar
- 1½ c. shortening
- ½ c. sour milk
- 2 eggs, slightly beaten
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- ½ tsp. lemon flavoring

Sift together dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Combine milk, eggs, and flavorings. Add to dry ingredients, beating until smooth. Chill over night. Roll out on floured board, cut with floured cookie cutters. Bake on ungreased cookie sheet at 425° for 8–10 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

1999 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

Designed by Donna Vermillion Giampa
of The Vermillion Stitchery

- | DMC | Anchor® | |
|---------|---------|----------------------|
| ♥ 814 | 45 | garnet, dk. |
| ✕ 816 | 43 | garnet |
| ■ 321 | 47 | red |
| ⊗ 003BF | | red |
| ⊖ 666 | 46 | red, bt. |
| — 3801 | 1098 | Christmas red, lt. |
| ◆ 355 | 1014 | terra-cotta, dk. |
| ⬢ 356 | 1013 | terra-cotta, med. |
| ⬤ 3778 | 1013 | terra-cotta, lt. |
| ∧ 758 | 9575 | terra-cotta, vy. lt. |
| ● 610 | 889 | drab brown, vy. dk. |
| ▲ 611 | 898 | drab brown, dk. |
| △ 612 | 832 | drab brown, med. |
| ∕ 613 | 831 | drab brown, lt. |
| ≥ 642 | 392 | beige-gray, dk. |
| ℓ 644 | 391 | beige-gray, med. |
| ⊔ 822 | 390 | beige-gray, lt. |

- | | | |
|---------|------|----------------------|
| • blanc | 2 | white |
| ○ blanc | 2 | white |
| ○ 032BF | | pearl |
| ■ 310 | 403 | black |
| ● 413 | 236 | pewter gray, dk. |
| ⊖ 414 | 235 | steel gray, dk. |
| ≥ 318 | 235 | steel gray, lt. |
| ⊖ 415 | 398 | pearl gray |
| ∨ 762 | 234 | pearl gray, vy. lt. |
| ■ 318 | 235 | steel gray, lt. |
| ○ 032BF | | pearl |
| ⊖ 415 | 398 | pearl gray |
| ○ 032BF | | pearl |
| ∨ 762 | 234 | pearl gray, vy. lt. |
| ○ 032BF | | pearl |
| ✕ 367 | 216 | pistachio, dk. |
| ✕ 320 | 215 | pistachio, med. |
| ⊖ 368 | 214 | pistachio, lt. |
| ⊖ 564 | 206 | jade, vy. lt. |
| ✕ 3064 | 883 | flesh, med. |
| + 754 | 1012 | peach flesh, lt. |
| ∨ 948 | 1011 | peach flesh, vy. lt. |

- | | | |
|---------|------|-----------------------|
| £ 760 | 1022 | salmon |
| ✕ 5282 | 701 | metallic gold |
| bs 902 | 897 | garnet, vy. dk. |
| bs 898 | 380 | coffee brown, vy. dk. |
| bs 3787 | 904 | brown-gray, dk. |
| bs 890 | 218 | pistachio, ul. dk. |
| bs 632 | 936 | coffee brown, dk. |

Mill Hill Glass Seed Beads

- ✕ 00968 red

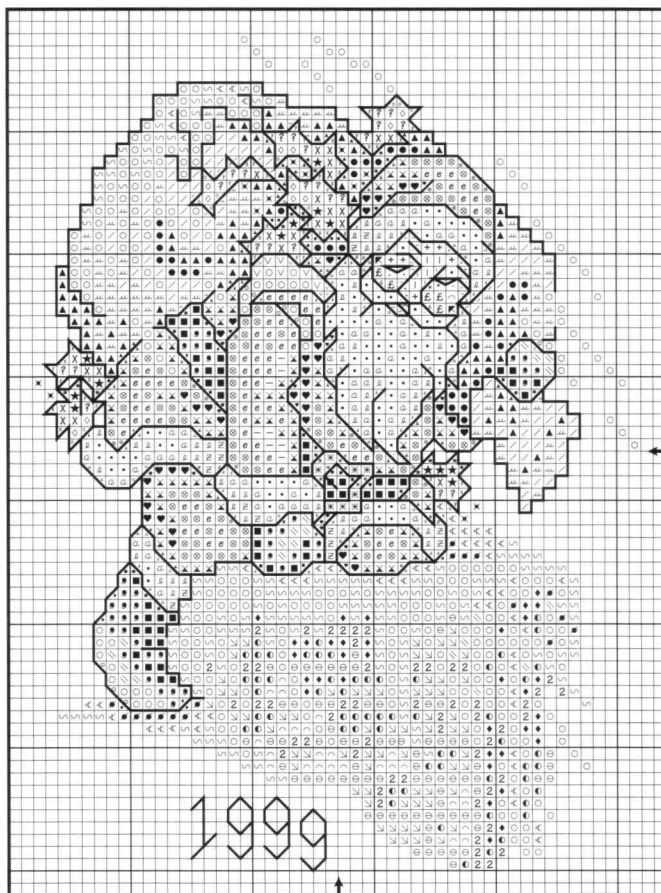
Fabric: 12" x 4½" (26cm x 23cm) piece 32-count New Amsterdam blue Lugana® from Zweigart®

Stitch count: 68H x 50W

Design size: 4¼" x 3⅜" (11cm x 8cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. When two colors are bracketed together, use one strand of floss and one strand of

(Continued on page 106)



(Photo is on page 19.)

1999 CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

(Continued from page 105)

Kreinik Blending Filament. Backstitch using one strand of floss. Attach beads, using one strand of matching floss. **NOTE:** Begin stitching design 6 1/2" (16cm) from top edge of fabric, centering design horizontally.

Backstitch instructions:

902 897 red part of suit
816 43 date
898 380 eyes
610 889 bag
3787 904 beard, eyebrows, cap, sleeve, suit fur

310 403 belt, gloves, boot
414 235 snow
890 218 holly
632 936 nose
5282 701 buckle

Finishing instructions: Fold linen in half, bringing top of fabric over to cover stitched piece. Using a 5/8" (16mm) seam allowance, sew sides of fabric to form a pocket. Trim seam allowances to 1/4" (6mm) and clip corners. Turn ornament right-side out. Press from back. Hanger was made using Kreinik 003 Tapestry Braid #12. Sew bottom edge

of ornament together approximately 3/8" (9mm) from stitching, using matching thread and staying on grain of fabric. Trim bottom edge of ornament to 1 1/4" (3cm) from bottom seam. Fringe fabric along bottom of ornament to within one or two threads of bottom seam.

The Vermillion Stitchery
7 Bird Wing
Irvine, CA 92604
e-mail: donnagiampa@earthlink.net
website: www.vscs.com

The Victoria Sampler

Thea Dueck



Christmas is such a magical time of year. When I was a little child, I was especially enthralled with the beautiful glowing colours of the antique glass ornaments on our tree. Of course, they were not antique then! Our Christmas traditions were simple in those days. In fact, gift giving was not part of Christmas but would have already taken place on Saint Nicholas' birthday, on December 5th. The wonder of Christmas was symbolized by the miracle of the birth of the Christ child and by the beautiful tree that was decorated with painted glass birds, deer, bunnies, toadstools, and shiny ornaments of jewel colours. Of course, the whole effect was enhanced by hundreds of real candles. I designed this ornament inspired by the memory of these ornaments of long ago.

During the Christmas season, I was allowed to drink a special eggnog made in the Netherlands called *advocaat*, and this milder recipe is my Canadian version of this rich and powerful drink.

Advocaat

10 large eggs

1 c. sugar

1 c. brandy

2 c. light rum

2 c. half-and-half cream

4 c. milk
1 tsp. cinnamon
Freshly grated nutmeg

With mixer, beat egg yolks with about half of sugar until thick. Add brandy, rum, cinnamon, half-and-half, and milk. Beat egg whites until soft peaks form and add rest of sugar to make a meringue. Fold into brandy/rum mixture. Grate nutmeg over top and serve in punch bowl for a festive touch!

CHRISTMAS JEWELS

Designed by Thea Dueck
of The Victoria Sampler

Trebizond	DMC
Silk Thread	Coton Perlé #5
TRA 395	321 empress coral
TRA 610	796 lapis
TRA 510	550 amethyst

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4
002HL gold hi lustre

Kreinik Fine Braid #8
042 confetti
fuchsia

DMC	Anchor*
321	47 red
5269	— metallic green

DMC	Anchor*
Rayon Floss	Marlitt
30552	819 violet, dk.

Fabric: 6" x 7" (15cm x 18cm) piece 28-count black Cashel® linen from Zweigart®
Stitch count: 97H x 121W
Design size: 3 1/2" x 4 1/3" (9cm x 11cm)

NOTE: Each line on chart equals one fabric thread. Stitch illustrations begin on page 112.

Special instructions:

Central diamond—Work satin stitch, using one strand TRA 395/321. Work

tiny straight stitches around satin-stitch diamond, using one strand of very fine braid. Cut fabric threads along satin stitch where indicated. Carefully remove threads. Work wrapped woven wheels, using one strand of very fine braid.

Area 1—Work half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of fine braid.
Area 2—Work Algerian-eye stitch over eight threads, using two strands 321/47. Using Algerian-eye stitch as a foundation, work spider roses, using one strand 321/47. Work lazy-daisy stitch, using two strands 5269.

Area 3—Work half cross stitch over two threads, using one strand TRA 610/796.
Area 4—Backstitch using two strands 321/47.

Area 5—Work partial diamond-eyelet stitch, using one strand 30552/819 and pulling each leg. Cross stitch over two threads, using one strand of very fine braid.

Area 6—Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands 5269.

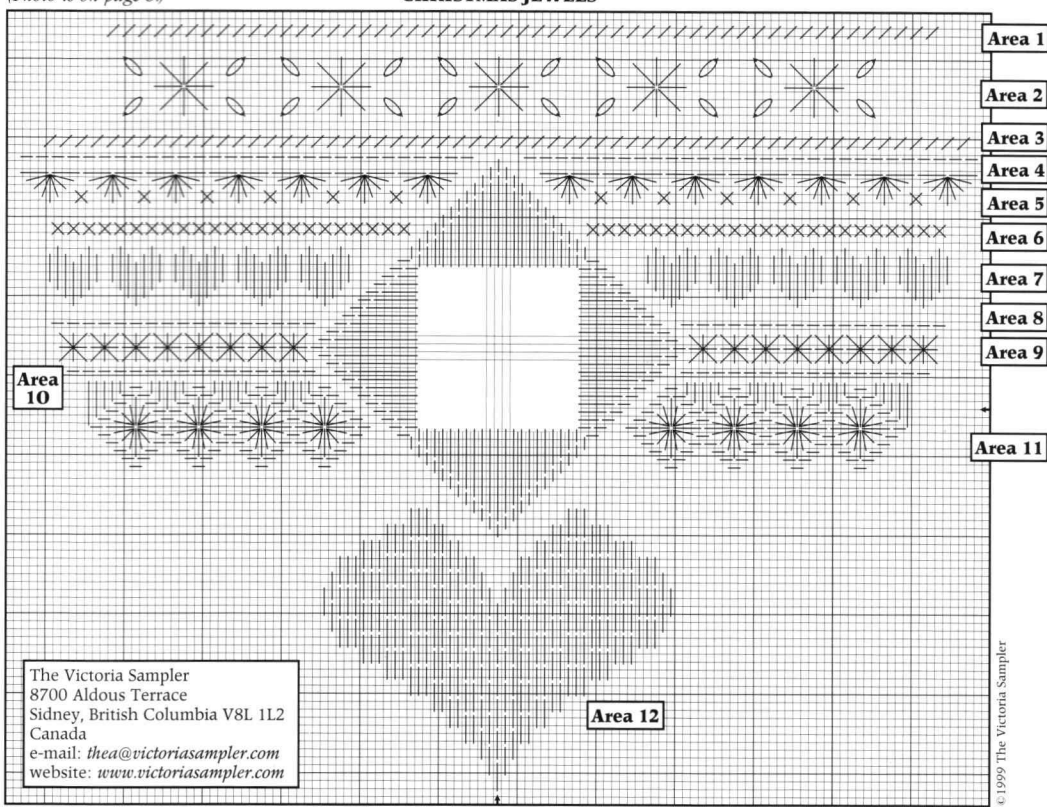
Area 7—Work satin stitch for hearts, using one strand TRA 395/321.

Areas 8 and 10—Backstitch using one strand of fine braid.

Area 9—Work Smyrna cross stitch over four threads, using one strand 30552/819.
Area 11—Work diamond-eyelet stitch over eight threads, using one strand 5269 and pulling each leg. Work tiny straight stitches around diamond-eyelet stitch, using two strands 321/47. Work satin stitch for triangles, using one strand TRA 610/796.

Area 12—Work Bargello pattern over four threads from bottom to top of motif, using one strand of floss unless otherwise indicated and the following color order: TRA 395/321, TRA 510/550, 5269 (two strands), 30552/819 (two strands), 042, and TRA 610/796.

Finishing instructions: Refer to ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Heart-shape pattern appears on this page. Line stitched piece with black fabric. Metallic-gold cording was purchased.



The Victoria Sampler
8700 Aldous Terrace
Sidney, British Columbia V8L 1L2
Canada
e-mail: thea@victoriasampler.com
website: www.victoriasampler.com

Victoria's Needle

Vicky D'Agostino



When I was sixteen years old, Mom, Dad, and I traveled to Manchester, New Hampshire, to spend the Christmas holiday with my brother Paul and sister Debby's families. New England is a winter fairyland when the snow falls. And fall it did that Christmas Eve!

We would stay at Debby's house in a nearby town to be with her kids while they opened their gifts from Santa. Then we would travel down the long, long hill into the city to arrive in time to see Paul's boys open their loot! It was a

reasonable plan. What we didn't count on was a Nor'easter blowing in and making roads virtually impassable.

My dad was never a man to shy away from a challenge so he fired up the van, dug out the driveway, and away we went. I need to point out that we left at dawn's first light because my nieces woke at an ungodly hour to rip open their gifts. So we even beat the snowplows down the street. This was not a good thing.

Why, you ask? Because we got stuck in a huge drift in the middle of the road miles from either Debby or Paul's homes! My mom and I decided we would hike to the nearest phone booth and call Paul to have him call a tow truck while my dad stayed with the van so it wouldn't be hit by any plows. Remember this was the 70s—pre-cell phone era—and local calls were still just a dime.

We finally found a phone booth and managed to squeeze inside. Ah, victory! Until my mom realized she'd left her purse a quarter of a mile back in the

van, and I didn't have a cent on me. My mom searched her pockets for change and turned up a lonely penny.

Being a woman who strongly believed in prayer and Christmas miracles, she deposited the penny in the slot and prayed for some help on this special day. As a jaded teen, I thought it was an exercise in futility.

Our Christmas angel must have decided to answer my mom's prayer and attempt to convert me into a believer. As my mom pressed the lever on the phone, a shiny silver dime fell into the coin return! We danced up and down with incredible joy and excitement thanking our guardian for her help. We made the call to Paul who got us help.

It's a great family story, the kind that gets told year after year at the holiday table as we eat our pie and drink our coffee.

Merry Christmas to you, Angel dear, and to my mom who now sits by your side, helping you to watch over our families.

(Continued on page 108)

MERRY CHRISTMAS ANGELDesigned by Vicky D'Agostino
of Victoria's Needle

DMC	Anchor*	
◆ 3712	1023	salmon, med.
✱ 435	365	brown, vy. lt.
• 945	881	flesh
■ 792	941	cornflower, dk.
■ ecru	387	ecru
+ 776	24	pink, med.
• 899	38	rose, med.
× blanc	2	white
bs 3328	1024	salmon, med. dk.

Kreinik Very Fine Braid #4	
⊗ 008	green
☆ 002	gold
bs 2122	curry
032	pearl

Kreinik Blending Filament

● 003HL	red hi lustre
032	pearl

Kreinik Cable

bs 002P	gold
---------	------

Kreinik Japan Thread #1

bs 001J	Japan silver
---------	--------------

Fabric: 11" x 11" (28cm x 28cm) piece
28-count white Cashel® linen from
Zweigart®

Stitch count: 74H x 66W

Design size: 5½" x 4¾" (13cm x 12cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss, one strand of very fine braid, or two strands of blending filament. Cross stitch over two threads where ○ appears, using

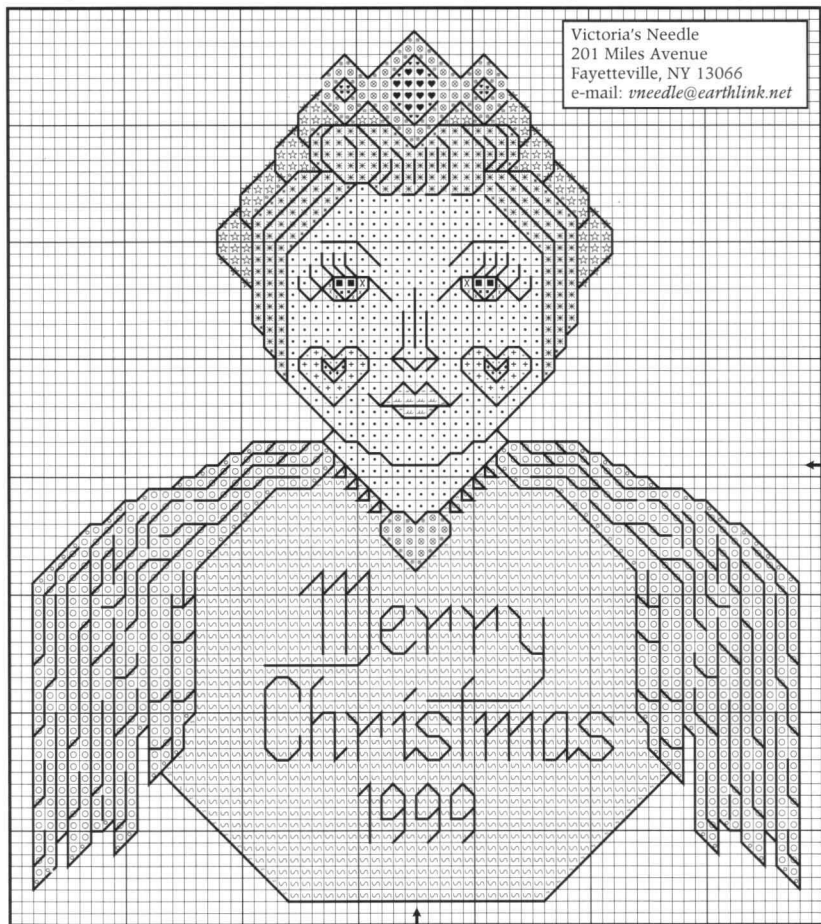
one strand each 032 very fine braid and 032 blending filament. Backstitch using one strand of floss or metallic unless otherwise indicated.

Backstitch (bs) instructions:

001J	wings, body (two strands)
2122	hair
002P	crown, neckline
435	365 brows, eyes (two strands); nose
3328	1024 lips (two strands)
899	38 hearts on cheeks
003HL	lettering (two strands), green heart at center neckline

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Hanger was made using purchased metallic-gold cord.

Victoria's Needle
201 Miles Avenue
Fayetteville, NY 13066
e-mail: vneedle@earthlink.net



The Workbasket

Candy Scott
and Mary Olson



I grew up in the village of Poland, Ohio. In my toddler years, Poland was small and could easily have snow-packed roads for sometime without the assault of a snow plow. One of my early memories, although a bit fuzzy, is of a wintry evening, senses peaked, snowflakes falling, chimney smoke in the air, jingle bells ringing, and our horse breathing hard. I was bundled in a mass of blankets, wedged into our bobsled, and off we went. I am sure that we must have toured down Main Street, over the bridge, and into the manor and probably back into the woods. Although it is one of my first real memories, and a bit vague, it is one I cherish. There was a sense of both awe and peace.

Whenever I take a bite of *pepparkakor*, Swedish gingerbread, I am transported back in time to my grandma's kitchen table, where she sat drinking coffee and visiting.

(Photo is on page 22.)

Pepparkakor

- 1 Tbsp. cinnamon
- 1½ c. sugar
- 1 Tbsp. cloves
- 2 tsp. soda
- ¾ c. flour
- ½ lb. butter
- 1 Tbsp. ginger
- 1 Tbsp. corn syrup
- Juice and rind of 1 orange
- 1 egg

Sift dry ingredients. In a large mixing bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add syrup, juice, and egg. Add dry ingredients. Mix until blended. Turn onto lightly floured board. Cut into shapes. Bake at 425° until brown.

A CRITTER'S CHRISTMAS

Designed by Candy Scott and Mary Olson
of The Workbasket

The Gentle Art Sampler Threads

- ♥ 0360 cranberry
- 0440 maple syrup

- ★ 0140 blue spruce
- × 0150 evergreen
- ▽ 0410 tarnished gold

Fabric: 10" x 10" (25cm x 25cm) piece
32-count natural linen

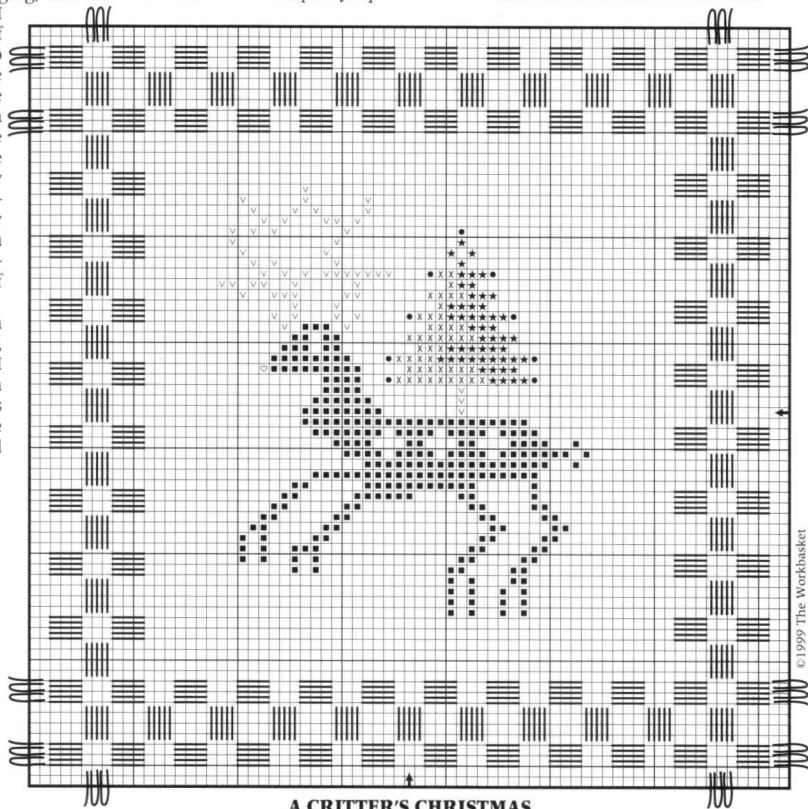
Stitch count: 69H x 69W

Design size: 4¾" x 4¾" (11cm x 11cm)

Instructions: Cross stitch over two threads, using two strands of floss. Work French knot where ● appears, using two strands 0360 and wrapping floss around needle once. Weave over six threads and under six threads for checkerboard border, using two strands 0140 and leaving loops at ends.

Finishing instructions: Refer to pillow-ornament finishing instructions on page 61. Twisted-cording trim was made using 0140 and 0360. Twisted-cording instructions appear on page 87.

The Workbasket
303 South Broadway, Suite B-389
Denver, CO 80209

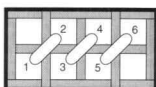


A CRITTER'S CHRISTMAS

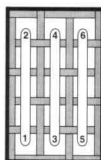
Stitch Illustrations



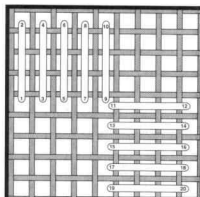
**CROSS STITCH
(OVER ONE)**



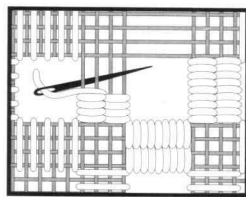
**HALF CROSS STITCH
(OVER ONE)**



**SATIN STITCH
(VERTICAL)**



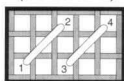
KLOSTER BLOCKS



WOVEN BARS



**CROSS STITCH
(OVER TWO)**



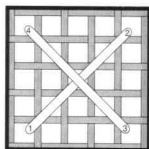
**HALF CROSS STITCH
(OVER TWO)**



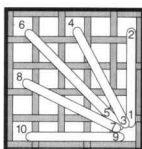
RUNNING STITCH



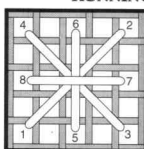
DOUBLE-RUNNING STITCH



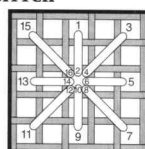
**CROSS STITCH
(OVER FOUR)**



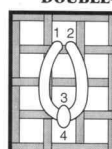
RAY STITCH



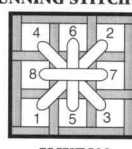
**SMYRNA CROSS
(OVER FOUR)**



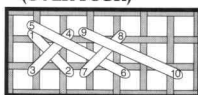
**ALGERIAN-EYE
STITCH**



**LAZY-DAZY
STITCH**



**SMYRNA
CROSS STITCH
(OVER TWO)**



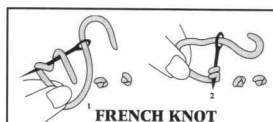
DOUBLE BACKSTITCH



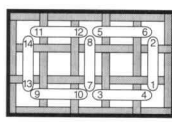
**SATIN STITCH
(HORIZONTAL)**



**ATTACHING A
BEAD WITH HALF
CROSS STITCH**



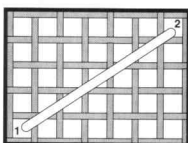
FRENCH KNOT



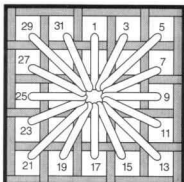
**FOUR-SIDED STITCH
(OVER TWO)**



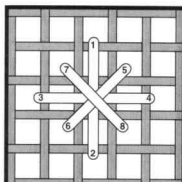
BACKSTITCH



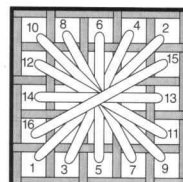
**LONG STITCH/
STRAIGHT STITCH**



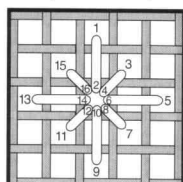
**EYELET STITCH
(OVER FOUR)**



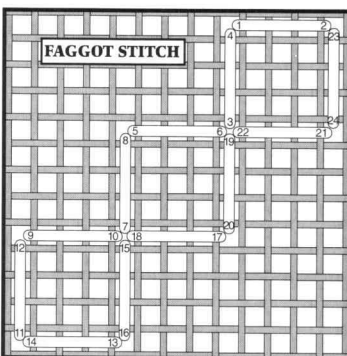
**STAR STITCH
(OVER FOUR)**



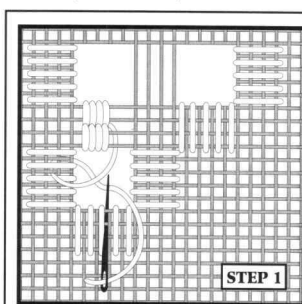
**RHODES STITCH
(OVER FOUR)**



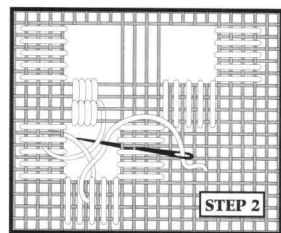
**DIAMOND-EYELET
STITCH (OVER 4)**



FAGGOT STITCH

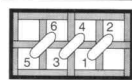


STEP 1

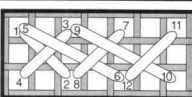


STEP 2

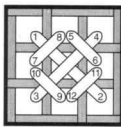
**(Continue weaving bar.)
WOVEN BARS
WITH DOVE'S EYE**



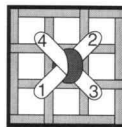
**TENT STITCH
(OVER ONE)**



LONG-ARM CROSS STITCH



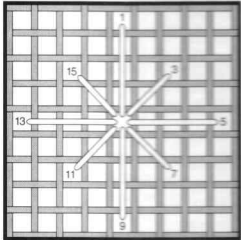
**RICE STITCH
(OVER TWO)**



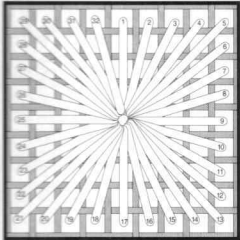
**ATTACHING
A BEAD
WITH
CROSS
STITCH**



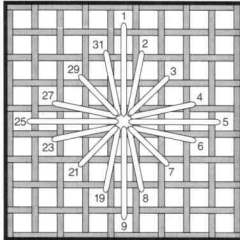
COUCHING STITCH



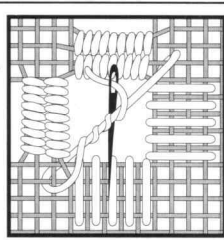
**DIAMOND-EYE STITCH
(OVER EIGHT)**



**EYELET STITCH
(OVER EIGHT)**



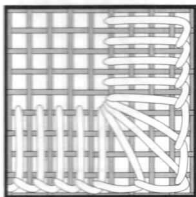
**DIAMOND-EYELET
STITCH (OVER 8)**



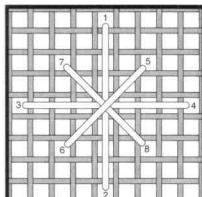
WOVEN SPIDER (STEP 1)



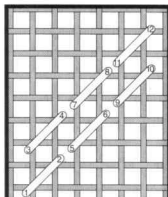
**CHAIN
STITCH**



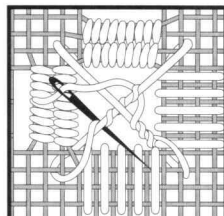
**BUTTONHOLE EDGE
TURNING CORNER**



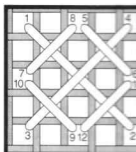
**STAR STITCH
(OVER EIGHT)**



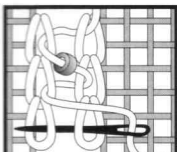
CABLE STITCH



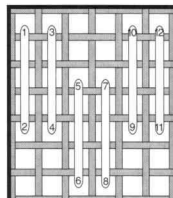
WOVEN SPIDER (STEP 2)



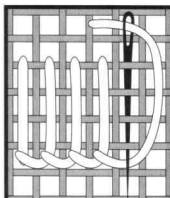
**RICE STITCH
(OVER FOUR)**



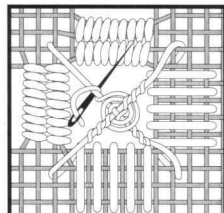
**LACING CHAIN
STITCH WITH BEADS**



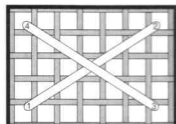
**BARGELLO PATTERN
(OVER FOUR)**



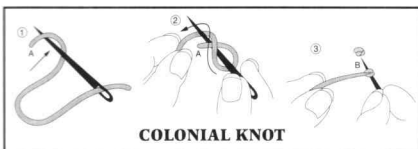
**BUTTONHOLE
STITCH**



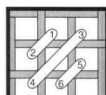
WOVEN SPIDER (STEP 3)



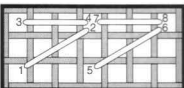
WIDE CROSS STITCH



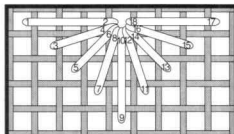
COLONIAL KNOT



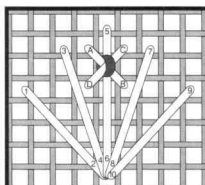
**MINI CHECKER
STITCH**



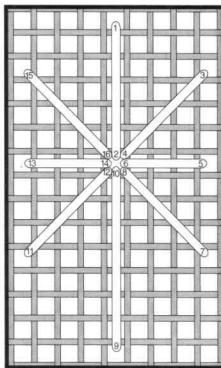
HEMSTITCH (PATTERN)



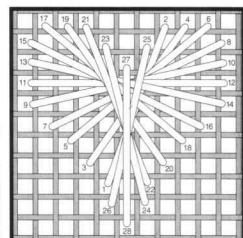
**PARTIAL DIAMOND-
EYELET STITCH**



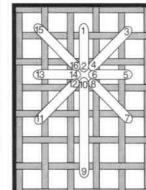
TREE LEAF WITH BEAD



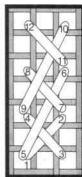
**LARGE ELONGATED-
EYE STITCH**



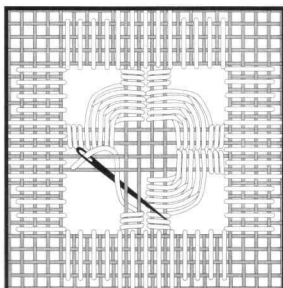
RHODES HEART STITCH



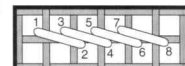
**ELONGATED-
EYE STITCH**



**CLOSED
HERRINGBONE
STITCH**

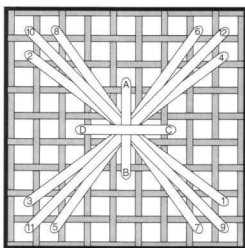


WRAPPED WOVEN WHEELS

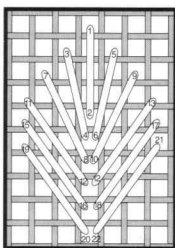


**STEM
STITCH
(OVER
TWO)**

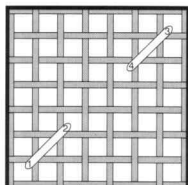
Stitch Illustrations



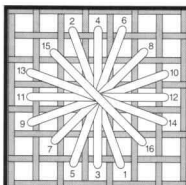
**TRIPLE CROSS STITCH
WITH UPRIGHT CROSS STITCH**



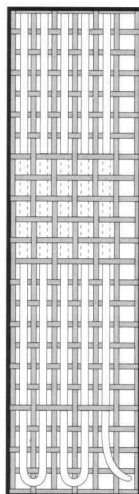
LEAF STITCH



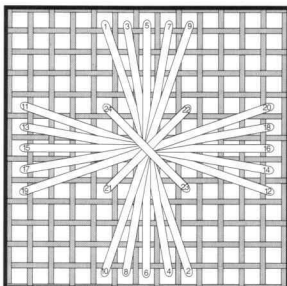
**DIAGONAL RUNNING
STITCH (OVER TWO)**



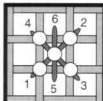
**ROUNDED RHODES
STITCH (OVER SIX)**



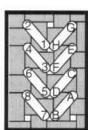
**WEAVING
(OVER SIX)**



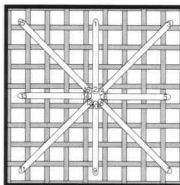
RAISED MATTESE CROSS STITCH



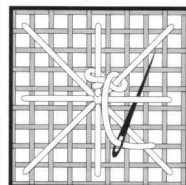
**BEADED
CLUSTER**



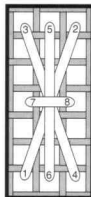
**KNITTED
STITCH**



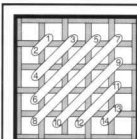
**ALGERIAN-EYE STITCH
(OVER EIGHT)**



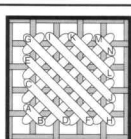
SPIDER ROSE



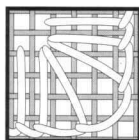
**ELONGATED
SMYRNA
CROSS
STITCH**



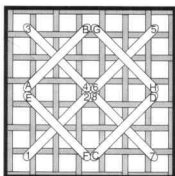
**STEP 1
PADDED DIAGONAL
SATIN STITCH**



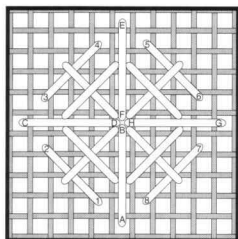
STEP 2



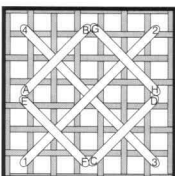
**BUTTONHOLE EDGE
(ROUNDED CORNER)**



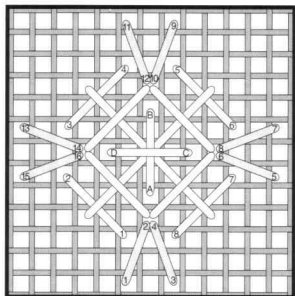
**WOVEN RICE STITCH
(VERSION A) - STEP 1**



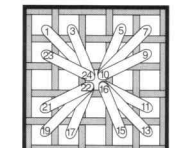
**WOVEN RICE STITCH
(VERSION A) - STEP 2**



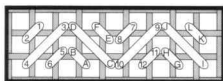
**WOVEN RICE STITCH
(VERSION B) - STEP 1**



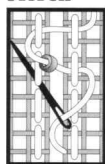
**WOVEN RICE STITCH
(VERSION B) - STEP 2**



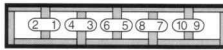
**PULLED EYELET
STITCH (OVER FOUR)**



SCOTCH STITCH SQUARES



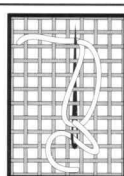
**LACING
BACKSTITCH
WITH BEAD**



BACKSTITCH (OVER ONE)

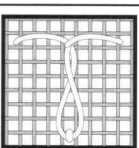


STEP 1

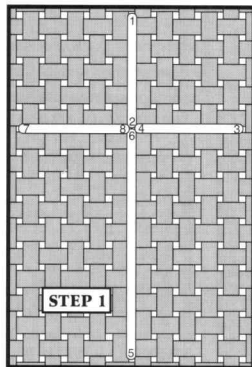


STEP 2

BASQUE STITCH

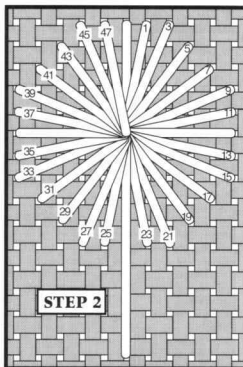


STEP 3



STEP 1

STAR-EYELET STITCH



STEP 2

STAR-EYELET STITCH